HALF BOY ★ HALF GOD ★ ALL HERO

PERCY JACKSON

AND THE LAST OLYMPIAN

ADAPTED BY ROBERT VENDITTI

ART BY ORPHEUS COLLAR

ART BY ANTOINE DODÉ

RICK RIORDAN

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

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LETTERING BY
CHRIS DICKEY

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THE PRINCESS ANDROMEDA, CAPITAL SHIP OF THE TITAN ARMY.
APPROACHING THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN.
SEVEN DAYS BEFORE PERCY JACKSON'S SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY.
YOU'RE LATE. WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU FOR DAYS.
I HAVE TAKEN MY HUMAN FORM AT LAST. THE BOY YOU ONCE KNEW AS LUKE IS NOW I, KRONOS, LORD OF THE TITANS.
COME, BOW BEFORE ME, PERCY JACKSON.
YEAH, THAT'LL HAPPEN.

THE GREAT PROPHECY FORETELLS THAT A CHILD OF THE BIG THREE GREEK GODS WILL REACH AGE SIXTEEN AND MAKE A DECISION THAT WILL SAVE OR DESTROY THE WORLD.
YOU'LL NEVER GET THIS BOAT TO MANHATTAN, KRONOS. YOUR ARMY WILL DIE HERE.
WHY WAIT, SON OF POSEIDON? COME FORWARD, IF YOU DARE. BATTLE ME.
YES, YOU SPEAK OF YOUR CLANDESTINE PLOT TO DETONATE OUR ENGINES.
I'M AFRAID YOUR HALF-BLOOD FRIEND WITH THE EXPLOSIVES FAILED.
...BECKENDORF?
SUCCESS, MY LORD. WE FOUND HIM JUST AS WE WERE TOLD.
DID YOU SEARCH THE ENGINE ROOM AND DEFUSE THE BOMBS, ETHAN NAKAMURA?
NO NEED. HE NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO PLANT THEM.

PEACHES
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
FOOLS!
PERCY! GO!
SEIZE HIM!
ADIOS, KRONOS.
BEEDEET

BADOOM

THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, PERCY...
...RACHEL? AM I... DREAMING?
...ANOTHER TIME.

PERCY?

...BECKENDORF?

NO, BROTHER. IT'S ME, TYSON.
TYSON? WHERE AM I?
DADDY'S PALACE. WE FOUND YOU LAST NIGHT, SINKING THROUGH THE WATER AFTER THE MONSTER SHIP WENT *KA-BOOM*.

BECKENDORF WAS ON BOARD. DID YOU... FIND HIM?
NO SIGN OF HIM. I AM SORRY, BROTHER.

SHBOOOMBLL

WHAT WAS *THAT*?
COME SEE.

"DADDY IS BLOWING UP *MONSTERS*."
BACK TO THE DEPTHS, FOUL CREATURES!
SHRAKKAKK

DELPHIN! SEND PALAEMON AND HIS LEGION OF SHARKS TO THE WESTERN FRONT! WE MUST NEUTRALIZE THOSE LEVIATHANS!
YES, LORD!

HELLO, PERCY.
...DAD?
WHERE ARE YOUR SHORTS AND HAWAIIAN SHIRT? WHY ARE YOU SO...

OLD?
THE WAR HAS BEEN HARD ON ME.
I AM IMMORTAL, BUT I REFLECT THE STATE OF MY REALM. AND RIGHT NOW, THAT STATE IS GRIM.
THE BATTLE AGAINST OCEANUS GOES...POORLY.

OCEANUS? THE TITAN OF THE SEA?
INDEED. HE WAS NEUTRAL IN THE FIRST WAR OF THE GODS AND TITANS. BUT KRONOS HAS CONVINCED HIM TO FIGHT.
IT IS NOT A GOOD SIGN. HE WOULD NOT COMMIT UNLESS HE WAS CERTAIN HE COULD PICK THE WINNING SIDE.
EVEN WITH MIGHTY BRIARES FIGHTING FOR US, HE IS ONE AGAINST MANY.

PERCY, YOUR MISSION AGAINST THE PRINCESS ANDROMEDA WAS A SUCCESS, DESPITE THE LOSS OF YOUR FRIEND.
KRONOS'S ARMY WILL BE IN DISASSAY. MANY WERE DESTROYED.
BUT WE DIDN'T KILL HIM, DID WE? OR THE WAR WOULD BE OVER.
A TITAN LORD IS NOT SO EASY TO KILL. BUT NEW YORK WILL BE SAFE FOR A WHILE, WHICH FREES THE OTHER OLYMPIANS TO DEAL WITH THE BIGGER THREAT.
RETURN TO CAMP. TELL CHIRON IT IS TIME YOU LEARNED THE REST OF THE GREAT PROPHECY.
DAD, NO.
I'M GOING TO STAY AND HELP. YOU WON'T HOLD OUT HERE MUCH LONGER.
PERCY CAN FIGHT WITH A SWORD, DADDY. HE IS GOOD.
I KNOW THAT. PERCY, YOUR FIGHT LIES IN THE WORLD ABOVE. YOU HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT DECISION TO MAKE.
IF NOTHING ELSE, YOU MUST WARN YOUR FRIENDS AT CAMP. KRONOS HAS A SPY IN THEIR MIDST. THAT IS HOW HE KNEW OF YOUR MISSION AGAINST HIM.
TAKE THIS SAND DOLLAR AS A GIFT. YOU WILL KNOW WHEN TO SPEND IT.
BUT--

OCEANUS APPROACHES. I MUST MEET HIM IN BATTLE.
GO. AND GOOD LUCK, MY SON.
DAD!
DON'T SEND ME AWAY!
RRRAAGH!
GOOD-BYE, DAD.

LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK.
CAMP HALF-BLOOD.
HIDDEN REFUGE FOR THE CHILDREN OF GREEK GODS AND HUMANS.

PERCY!
YOU MADE IT!

WAIT...WHERE'S BECKENDORF?

OH, NO...

"...POOR SILENA."
NO.
NO. NO.
I'M SURE YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD, PERCY.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT DEAD, SEAWEED BRAIN.
THANKS, ME, TOO.
CHIRON, I SAW MY DAD. HIS KINGDOM IS UNDER ATTACK FROM OCEANUS. BUT HE MADE ME LEAVE ANYWAY.
HE SAID TO TELL YOU IT'S TIME. I NEED TO KNOW THE FULL PROPHECY.
I'VE DREADED THIS DAY.
VERY WELL. I WILL CONVENE A WAR COUNCIL.
THERE ARE MANY MATTERS TO DISCUSS.
ANNABETH WILL TAKE YOU TO LEARN THE TRUTH– ALL OF IT.

"GO AND SEE THE ORACLE."
THIS IS MY FOURTH TIME UP HERE. I NEVER UNDERSTOOD THIS.
WHY DOES THE ORACLE HAVE TO BE A MUMMY?

SHE WASN'T ALWAYS A MUMMY. FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS THE SPIRIT OF THE ORACLE LIVED INSIDE A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN. IT WAS PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.
CHIRON TOLD ME SHE WAS LIKE THAT FIFTY YEARS AGO. BUT SHE WAS THE LAST.

SO NOW WHAT? USUALLY THERE'S GREEN MIST AND THINGS GET EVEN CREEPIER. THE WHOLE OUT-OF-BODY VOICE THING.
O ORACLE, THE TIME IS AT HAND. I ASK FOR THE GREAT PROPHECY.

THANKS.

THE BIG MYSTERY OF MY LIFE WAS HANGING AROUND HER NECK THE WHOLE TIME?!
LET'S GET TO THE WAR COUNCIL.

THE CHARIOT BELONGS TO THE ARES CABIN BY RIGHT!
IT'S APOLLO'S LOOT! IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN KISS MY QUIVER!
YOU'RE IN CHARGE, CHIRON. DOES MY CABIN GET WHAT WE WANT OR NOT?
CLARISSE, AS I'VE ALREADY EXPLAINED, MICHAEL AND THE APOLLO CABIN HAVE THE BEST CLAIM. BESIDES, WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS--
THEN ALL OF YOU CAN FIGHT THIS WAR WITHOUT ARES. UNTIL I GET SATISFACTION, NO ONE IN MY CABIN IS LIFTING A FINGER TO HELP.
HAVE FUN DYING.
THIS IS CRAZY. WHAT'S SHE SO MAD ABOUT?
HER PRIDE HAS BEEN WOUNDED. SHE'LL CALM DOWN EVENTUALLY.
I HOPE.

PERCY. YOU NEED TO KNOW.
READ.
"A HALF-BLOOD OF THE ELDEST GODS...
...SHALL REACH SIXTEEN AGAINST ALL ODDS...
"AND SEE THE WORLD IN ENDLESS SLEEP...
"...THE HERO'S SOUL, CURSED BLADE SHALL REAP...
"A SINGLE CHOICE...
"...A SINGLE CHOICE SHALL END HIS DAYS...OLYMPUS TO PRESERVE OR RAZE."
YOU SEE NOW, PERCY, WHY WE THOUGHT IT BEST NOT TO TELL YOU THE WHOLE PROPHECY. YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH ON YOUR SHOULDERS.
WITHOUT REALIZING I WAS GOING TO *DIE* IN THE END ANYWAY?
YEAH, I GET IT.

YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT THIS. YOU NEED TIME.
NO. IF I DIE, I DIE. I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T MEAN THAT, PERCY.

WE HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS. THERE'S A SPY IN CAMP. KRONOS KNEW WE WERE COMING TO BOMB THE PRINCESS ANDROMEDA.
HE WAS WAITING.
A SPY?
WHO?

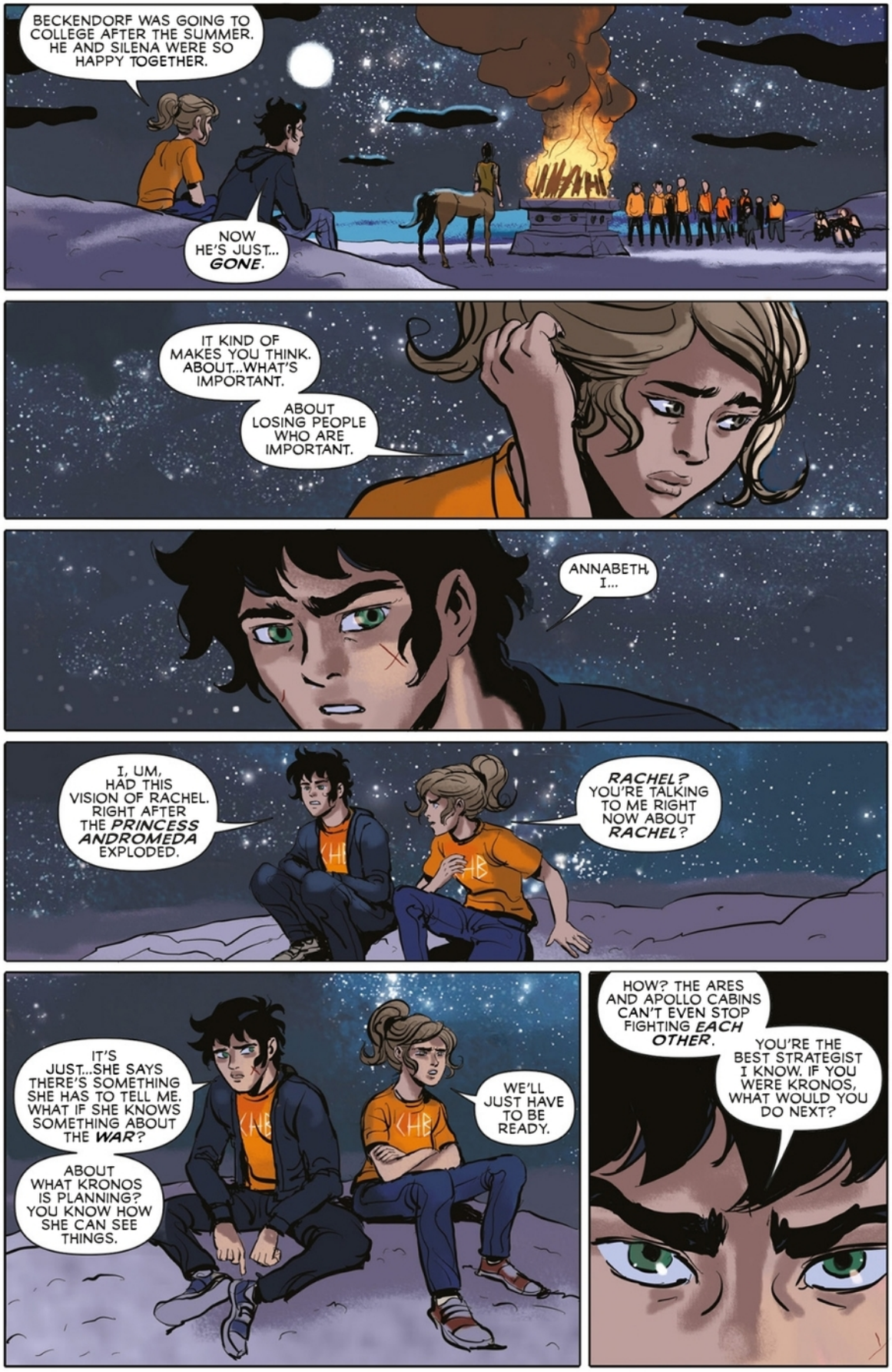
IT MAKES SENSE. SOMEONE HAS BEEN FEEDING INFORMATION TO LUKE FOR YEARS. AND I'M AFRAID OUR PROBLEMS ARE EVEN LARGER STILL.
TYPHON HAS RETURNED.

"THE MOST HORRIBLE MONSTER OF ALL. THE BIGGEST SINGLE THREAT THE GODS EVER FACED.
"HE HAS BEEN FREED FROM HIS PRISON UNDER MOUNT ST. HELENS AT LAST."

"THE GODS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING HIM FOR DAYS, TRYING TO SLOW HIM DOWN. BUT TYPHON MARCHES *FORWARD*. TOWARD NEW YORK.

"TOWARD *OLYMPUS*."

"WE HAVE A BURIAL SHROUD TO BURN."
HAIL, CHARLES BECKENDORF, SON OF HEPHAESTUS, WHO FELL HONORABLY IN BATTLE AGAINST THE FORCES OF THE TITAN LORD.
HAIL!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT....
DON'T SAY THAT, SILENA. BECKENDORF SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR THE GOOD OF THE WAR. EVEN ARES WOULD BE PROUD.


BECKENDORF WAS GOING TO COLLEGE AFTER THE SUMMER. HE AND SILENA WERE SO HAPPY TOGETHER.
NOW HE'S JUST... GONE.
IT KIND OF MAKES YOU THINK. ABOUT...WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
ABOUT LOSING PEOPLE WHO ARE IMPORTANT.
ANNABETH, I...
I, UM, HAD THIS VISION OF RACHEL. RIGHT AFTER THE PRINCESS ANDROMEDA EXPLODED.
RACHEL? YOU'RE TALKING TO ME RIGHT NOW ABOUT RACHEL?
IT'S JUST...SHE SAYS THERE'S SOMETHING SHE HAS TO TELL ME. WHAT IF SHE KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAR?
ABOUT WHAT KRONOS IS PLANNING? YOU KNOW HOW SHE CAN SEE THINGS.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BE READY.
HOW? THE ARES AND APOLLO CABINS CAN'T EVEN STOP FIGHTING EACH OTHER.
YOU'RE THE BEST STRATEGIST I KNOW. IF YOU WERE KRONOS, WHAT WOULD YOU DO NEXT?

I'D USE TYPHON AS A DISTRACTION.
THEN I'D HIT OLYMPUS DIRECTLY, WHILE THE GODS WERE IN THE WEST.
MEANWHILE, HALF OUR CAMP HAS DEFECTED TO THE OTHER SIDE. AND THERE'S NO WORD FROM GROVER SINCE HE LEFT FOR CENTRAL PARK MONTHS AGO. WE'RE GOING TO NEED HIM AND THE POWER OF THE WILD TO GET THROUGH THIS.
ON THE PLUS SIDE, I'M SUPPOSED TO GET MY DUMB SOUL REAPED. SO AFTER KRONOS WINS, AT LEAST I WON'T BE AROUND TO ANNOY YOU ANYMORE.
YOU REALLY ARE STUPID, YOU KNOW THAT, SEAWEED BRAIN?
YEAH. I KNOW.

WOOF!
SHLLORP
HEY, MRS. O'LEARY! AT LEAST YOU'RE HAPPY TO SEE ME, GIRL!
I WAS SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT BECKENDORF.

I ALWAYS LIKED HIM.
NICO?
I TALKED TO HIS GHOST IN THE UNDERWORLD. HE DOESN'T BLAME YOU. HE FIGURED YOU'D BE BEATING YOURSELF UP, AND HE SAID YOU SHOULDN'T.

IT'S NOT THAT EASY.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW.
TYPHON IS HEADED THIS WAY. MOST OF THE OTHER TITANS ARE UNLEASHED. THIS CAMP IS NO MATCH FOR THEIR ARMY, AND YOU KNOW IT.

THIS COMES DOWN TO YOU AND LUKE. AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY YOU CAN BEAT LUKE, NOW THAT KRONOS HAS TAKEN HIM OVER.
TWO YEARS AGO, MY SISTER GAVE HER LIFE TO PROTECT YOU. I WANT YOU TO HONOR THAT. DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO STAY ALIVE AND DEFEAT KRONOS.

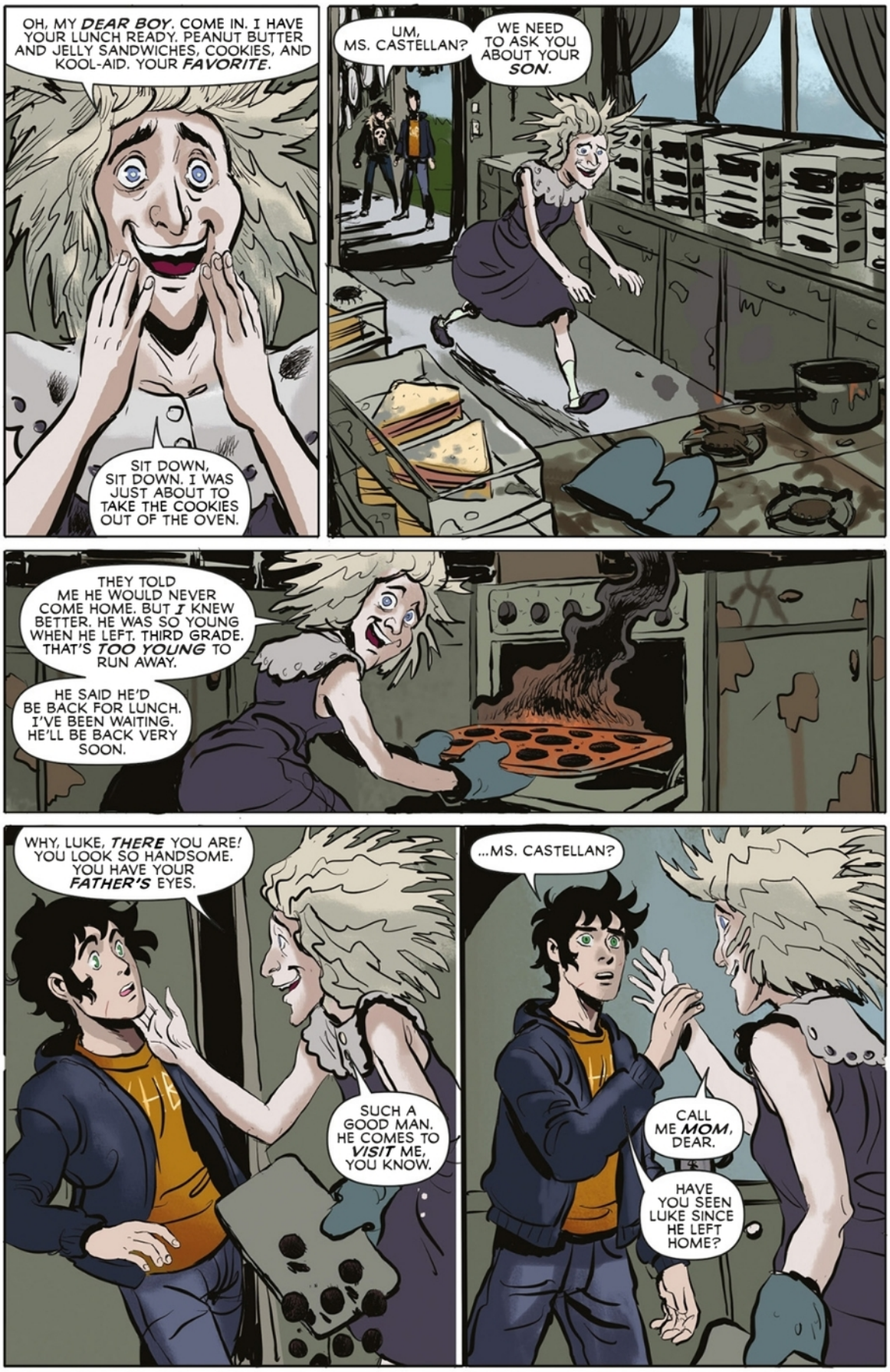
PERCY. YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE.

ALL RIGHT. WHAT DO WE DO FIRST?

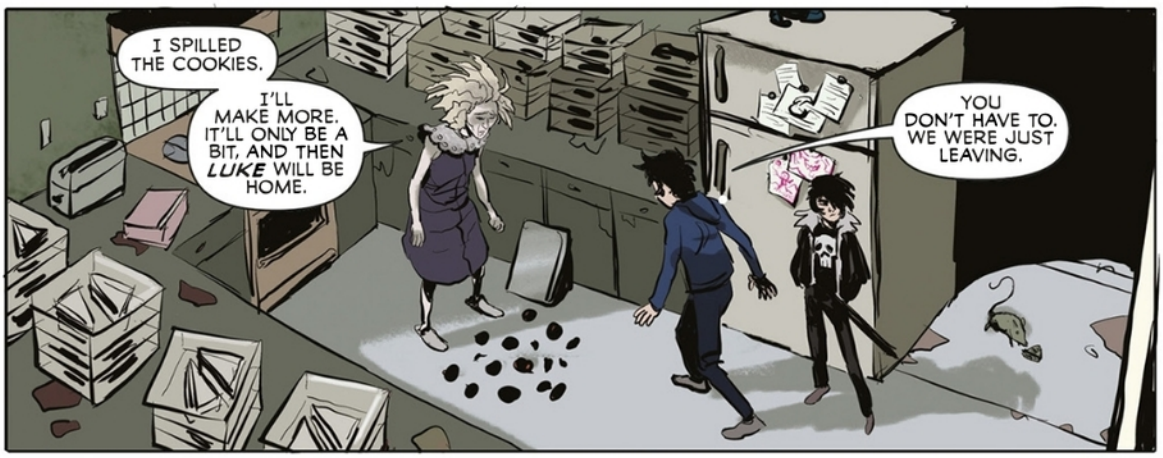
FIRST, WE'LL NEED TO RETRACE LUKE'S STEPS.
WE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIS PAST. HIS CHILDHOOD.
WHY?
I'LL EXPLAIN WHEN WE GET THERE. I'VE ALREADY TRACKED DOWN HIS MOTHER.
LUKE RAN AWAY WHEN HE WAS REALLY YOUNG. I DIDN'T THINK HIS MOM WAS ALIVE.
OH, SHE'S ALIVE.
AS FOR GETTING THERE, MRS. O'LEARY CAN HELP. YOU SHADOW TRAVEL, AND I'LL MEET YOU THERE.
SHADOW TRAVEL?
YOU HAVE SHADOW TRAVELED, HAVEN'T YOU?
UM... NOPE.
IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO LEARN, BUT IT'S INSTINCT TO MRS. O'LEARY. ISN'T IT, GIRL?
ALL SHADOWS ARE PART OF THE SAME SUBSTANCE. THERE'S ONLY ONE DARKNESS, AND CREATURES OF THE UNDERWORLD CAN USE IT AS A ROAD, OR A DOOR.
THIS WILL MAKE HER REALLY TIRED, SO YOU CAN'T DO IT OFTEN.
HOP ON. AND TELL HER TO TAKE YOU TO WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT, THE HOME OF MAY CASTELLAN.

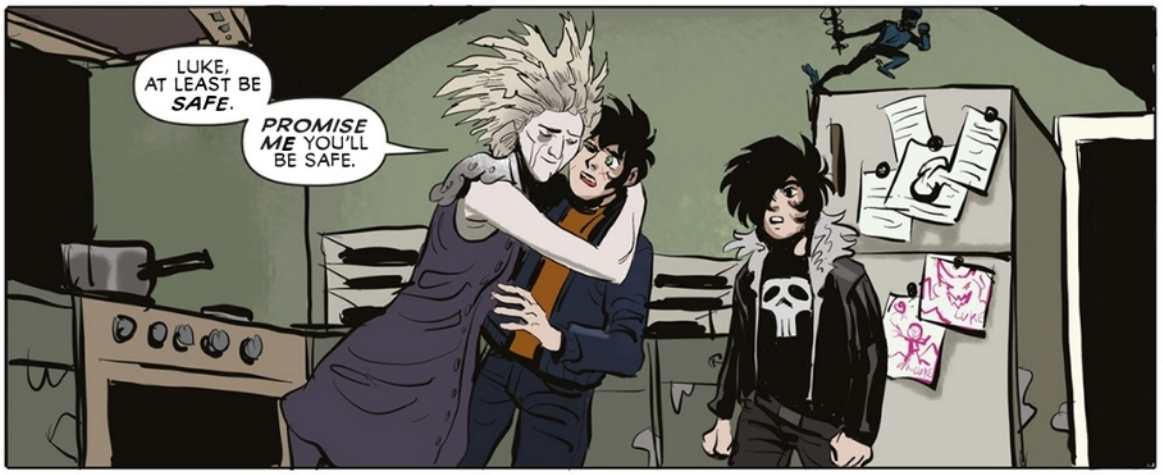
OKAY, GIRL. UH, CAN YOU TAKE ME TO WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT? MAY CASTELLAN'S PLACE?
ARROOOOOO
WHOA, GIRL! TREES!
BIG TREES!
SHHMMP

WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT.
WHERE'S MRS. O'LEARY?
I LEFT HER SNORING IN THE WOODS.
THIS IS WHERE LUKE IS FROM? WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO HERE?
RING THE DOORBELL.
DING DONG
LUKE!
I TOLD THEM YOU WOULD COME HOME! I KNEW IT!


OH, MY DEAR BOY. COME IN. I HAVE YOUR LUNCH READY. PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY SANDWICHES, COOKIES, AND KOOL-AID. YOUR FAVORITE.
SIT DOWN, SIT DOWN. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TAKE THE COOKIES OUT OF THE OVEN.
UM, MS. CASTELLAN?
WE NEED TO ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR SON.
THEY TOLD ME HE WOULD NEVER COME HOME. BUT I KNEW BETTER. HE WAS SO YOUNG WHEN HE LEFT. THIRD GRADE. THAT'S TOO YOUNG TO RUN AWAY.
HE SAID HE'D BE BACK FOR LUNCH. I'VE BEEN WAITING. HE'LL BE BACK VERY SOON.
WHY, LUKE, THERE YOU ARE! YOU LOOK SO HANDSOME. YOU HAVE YOUR FATHER'S EYES.
SUCH A GOOD MAN. HE COMES TO VISIT ME, YOU KNOW.
...MS. CASTELLAN?
CALL ME MOM, DEAR.
HAVE YOU SEEN LUKE SINCE HE LEFT HOME?

WELL, OF COURSE!
IT WAS... OH, GOODNESS... THE LAST TIME, HE LOOKED SO DIFFERENT.
A SCAR. A TERRIBLE SCAR, AND HIS VOICE FULL OF PAIN...
HE WAS GOING TO A RIVER. HE SAID HE NEEDED MY BLESSING, AND I GAVE IT TO HIM...OF COURSE I DID.
AHHHH!
MS. CASTELLAN?
MY CHILD. HERMES, HELP! MUST PROTECT HIM.
NOT HIS FATE!
NOT HIS FATE!
...LUKE?
DEAR ME. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO SEE THROUGH THE MIST. THEY OFFERED ME AN IMPORTANT JOB. YOUR FATHER WARNED ME NOT TO TRY.
BUT I HAD TO. IT WAS MY DESTINY. I STILL CAN'T GET THE IMAGES OUT OF MY HEAD. THEY MAKE EVERYTHING SEEM SO FUZZY.


I SPILLED THE COOKIES.
I'LL MAKE MORE. IT'LL ONLY BE A BIT, AND THEN *LUKE* WILL BE HOME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO. WE WERE JUST LEAVING.


LUKE, AT LEAST BE *SAFE*.
PROMISE ME YOU'LL BE SAFE.

I WILL... MOM.

I *KNEW* IT! I *TOLD* YOU HE'D BE *SAFE*!

ZZZZZZ

LITTLE GIRL ALL ALONE IN THE WOODS SPELLS "MONSTER" TO ME. SO TALK.
WHO ARE YOU?

HELLO, PERCY JACKSON. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME DINNER?

I MEAN, I WOULDN'T NOT LIKE IT.
YOU'RE HESTIA. GODDESS OF THE HEARTH.

A GODDESS? I'LL JUST, YOU KNOW, PUT MY SWORD AWAY NOW.
MY LADY. WHY AREN'T YOU WITH THE OTHER OLYMPIANS, FIGHTING TYPHON?
I'M NOT MUCH FOR FIGHTING. BESIDES, SOMEONE HAS TO KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING WHILE THE OTHER GODS ARE AWAY.
SO, YOU'RE GUARDING MOUNT OLYMPUS?
"GUARD" MAY BE TOO STRONG A WORD. BUT IF YOU EVER NEED A WARM PLACE TO SIT AND A HOME-COOKED MEAL, YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT.
NOW EAT. TELL ME OF YOUR VISIT WITH MAY CASTELLAN.
ONE MINUTE SHE WAS ALL HAPPY. AND THEN SHE WAS FREAKING OUT ABOUT HER SON'S FATE, LIKE SHE KNEW HE'D TURNED INTO KRONOS.
IT IS A STORY I DO NOT LIKE TO TELL, BUT MAY CASTELLAN HAD THE GIFT OF SIGHT. SHE ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF HERMES, AND THEY HAD A BEAUTIFUL BABY BOY. FOR A WHILE THEY WERE HAPPY...
...AND THEN SHE WENT TOO FAR.
I TELL YOU THIS BECAUSE TO UNDERSTAND YOUR ENEMY LUKE, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND HIS FAMILY.
WILL YOU FOLLOW LUKE'S PATH? SEEK THE SAME POWERS?
WE HAVE NO CHOICE, MY LADY. IT'S THE ONLY WAY PERCY STANDS A CHANCE.
HMMM.
YOU ARE A GOOD HERO, PERCY JACKSON. NOT TOO PROUD. I LIKE THAT. BUT YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN. NOT ALL POWERS ARE SPECTACULAR.
WHEN DIONYSUS WAS MADE A GOD, I GAVE UP MY THRONE FOR HIM. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID CIVIL WAR AMONG THE GODS.
NOW I TEND THE FIRE. NO ONE WILL EVER WRITE EPIC POEMS ABOUT THE DEEDS OF HESTIA. BUT THAT IS NO MATTER. I KEEP THE PEACE.

I *YIELD* WHEN NECESSARY.
CAN YOU DO THIS?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
PERHAPS NOT YET. BUT SOON.
WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, WHEN ALL THE MIGHTY GODS HAVE GONE OFF TO WAR, I AM ALL THAT'S LEFT. HOME. HEARTH. I AM THE *LAST OLYMPIAN*.
YOU MUST REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU FACE YOUR *FINAL DECISION*.
WAIT! TELL ME MORE!
I CANNOT. I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN, PERCY, ON OLYMPUS.

"NOW I RETURN YOU TO YOUR OWN HEARTH."
MANHATTAN.
HEY, MOM.
AAAAAA!
WHY ARE YOU UP SO LATE?
...PERCY?
PERCY!

WE HAVE TO HURRY.
NONSENSE. SIT DOWN. I'LL FIX YOU BOYS SOMETHING TO EAT.
NICO IS RIGHT, MOM. WE CAN'T STAY. TYPHON IS COMING. THE GODS HAVE GONE TO WAR. MANHATTAN IS GOING TO BE INVADED.
THEN GET YOUR THINGS. WE'RE LEAVING.
MS. JACKSON, YOU KNOW WE CAN'T DO THAT. BUT PERCY CAN'T DO WHAT HE HAS TO WITHOUT YOUR BLESSING. THE PROCESS HAS TO START THAT WAY.
I WASN'T SURE UNTIL WE MET LUKE'S MOM, BUT NOW I'M POSITIVE.
MY BLESSING? TO DO WHAT? GO TO WAR AGAINST KRONOS?
YOU'RE MY SON. I CAN'T JUST...
YOU HAVE TO.
WHEN I FACE KRONOS, MOM, ONLY ONE OF US WILL SURVIVE.
BUT IF I DON'T TRY...
...EVERYONE DIES.
PERCY...

...I GIVE YOU MY BLESSING.
THAT'S IT. LET'S GO.
I LOVE YOU, MOM.
WE HAVE TO GET TO LOS ANGELES.
NO NEED.

"THERE'S A CLOSER ENTRANCE TO THE UNDERWORLD."
CENTRAL PARK.
I THOUGHT THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNDERWORLD WAS IN L.A.--CHARON'S FERRY.

MOST SOULS GO THAT WAY, BUT THERE'S A SMALLER PATH. HARDER TO FIND. THE DOOR OF ORPHEUS.
HE USED MAGIC TO CHARM THE EARTH AND CREATE A NEW PATH INTO MY FATHER'S KINGDOM.

EXCEPT WE NEED MUSIC TO OPEN IT.
MUSIC?
I HAVE AN IDEA.

UM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CONCENTRATING ON MY EMPATHY LINK TO GROVER. LAST TIME ANYONE HEARD FROM HIM, HE WAS ON A MISSION IN THE PARK. IF HE'S STILL NEARBY, WE MIGHT BE CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIM FOR THIS TO WORK.

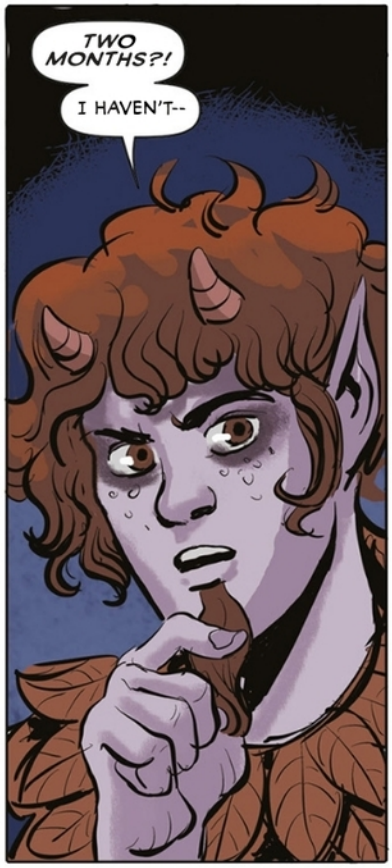
GROVER!
GROVER! WE NEED YOU!

PERCY, WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO STAND AROUND--
WAIT FOR IT....

RSSTLE RSSTLE
WHUMMP
YAWN
UNCLE FERDINAND? IS IT BREAKFAST TIME YET?

GOOD TO SEE YOU, G-MAN. YOU REMEMBER NICO.
PERCY! I MISSED YOU! I MISS CAMP!

TRY CHECKING IN ONCE IN A WHILE. WE'VE ALL BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU. WHERE'VE YOU BEEN THE LAST TWO MONTHS?


TWO MONTHS?!
I HAVEN'T--

I...I REMEMBER NOW.
I WAS SEARCHING THE WOODS, AND I FELT THIS TREMBLE IN THE GROUND, LIKE SOMETHING POWERFUL WAS NEAR.

I TRACKED IT TO THE PARK, WHERE THIS MAN IN A LONG BLACK COAT WAS WALKING. NO SHADOW. HE KIND OF SHIMMERED AS HE MOVED.

LIKE A MIRAGE?
JUST LIKE THAT. HE WAS LOOKING AT ALL THE BUILDINGS. SAID SOMETHING ABOUT "MAKING ESTIMATES."
I TOLD HIM THE PARK WAS UNDER MY PROTECTION, AND HE JUST LAUGHED. HE SAID I WAS LUCKY HE WAS SAVING HIS STRENGTH FOR THE MAIN EVENT. THEN HE TOLD ME, "PLEASANT DREAMS."

YOU MET MORPHEUS, THE GOD OF DREAMS. YOU'RE LUCKY YOU EVER WOKE UP.
HE MUST BE WORKING WITH KRONOS. A LOT OF MINOR GODS ARE. THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS MAIN EVENT IS.
SO WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE?
YOUR NEXT MOVE IS TO PLAY SOME MUSIC TO OPEN THE DOOR OF ORPHEUS. NICO AND I ARE GOING UNDERGROUND.
THEN RALLY THE NATURE SPIRITS AND SEE IF THEY CAN FIND MORPHEUS. KRONOS IS HEADED THIS WAY.
THE UNDERWORLD, PERCY? ARE YOU SURE?
AS SURE AS I'M GOING TO GET. DO IT FOR ME, G-MAN. FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE.
ALL RIGHT, BUT YOU BETTER PLUG YOUR EARS. MY NIRVANA TUNES CAN SPLIT ROCKS-- AND EARDRUMS.
ESSEX HOUSE
ROCK ON.

THE UNDERWORLD.
THIS IS IT. THE RIVER STYX.
THIS IS GOING TO BE THE WORST BATH EVER.
SO...I JUST CANNONBALL IN, OR WHAT?
YOU HAVE TO PREPARE YOURSELF FIRST, OR THE RIVER WILL DESTROY YOU.
IT'LL BURN AWAY YOUR BODY AND SOUL.
I WARNED THE OTHER ONE NOT TO FOLLOW MY PATH.
NOW I WARN YOU.

PERCY, MEET ACHILLES.
LIKE, THE ACHILLES?
DO NOT DO THIS. IT WILL MAKE YOU POWERFUL. BUT IT WILL ALSO MAKE YOU WEAK.
YOUR PROWESS IN COMBAT WILL BE BEYOND ANY MORTAL'S, BUT YOUR WEAKNESSES--YOUR FAILINGS--WILL INCREASE AS WELL.
I HAVE TO. OTHERWISE I DON'T STAND A CHANCE.

THIS IS HOW LUKE PREPARED HIMSELF TO HOST THE SPIRIT OF KRONOS WITHOUT HIS BODY DISINTEGRATING. HE'S TAKEN ON THE POWERS GRANTED TO YOU WHEN YOU BATHED IN THE RIVER STYX.
HE'S INVINCIBLE.

LET THE GODS WITNESS I TRIED.
CONCENTRATE ON YOUR MORTAL POINT, ONE SPOT THAT WILL REMAIN VULNERABLE. THIS IS THE POINT WHERE YOUR SOUL WILL ANCHOR YOUR BODY TO THE MORTAL WORLD.
LOSE SIGHT OF IT, AND THE STYX WILL BURN YOU TO ASHES.

WHETHER YOU SURVIVE THIS OR NOT, YOU HAVE SEALED YOUR DOOM.

UHNNNN

PERCY, I GIVE YOU MY BLESSING.
BE SAFE, BROTHER!
HOLD ON, SEAWEED BRAIN!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY FROM ME THAT EASILY!

PERCY!
SPLOOSH
OH, GODS. YOU'RE HURT.
KOFF
AKK
DO YOU FEEL ANY STRONGER?
I'M FINE... I THINK.
THERE!

YOU WILL NOT *ESCAPE ME* THIS TIME, PERCY JACKSON.

HADES. FIGURES I'D FIND YOU SLINKING AROUND DOWN HERE.
ALL THE OTHER GODS ARE FIGHTING TYPHON, AND YOU'RE HIDING OUT.
I AM WAITING. WHEN IS THE LAST TIME OLYMPUS EVER HELPED ME, HALF-BLOOD? WHEN IS THE LAST TIME A CHILD OF MINE WAS WELCOMED AS A HERO?

FATHER...
SILENCE, BOY. I'D RATHER IT WAS YOUR SISTER WHO SURVIVED, BUT IN FOUR YEARS' TIME I GUARANTEE YOU WILL BE TRAINED AND READY. AT SIXTEEN, YOU WILL BE THE CHILD OF THE GREAT PROPHECY.
YOU WILL MAKE A DECISION THAT WILL SAVE THE WORLD, AND I WILL BE KING OF THE GODS.

SEIZE THEM!

THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME, HADES?
PERCY! THEY'LL KILL YOU!
SWAKK
HERE I AM.
SLASHH
FIRE!
FIRE, YOU FOOLS!

TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!
POK
POK
POK
POK
POK

IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?
YOU HAVE NO CHANCE TO DEFEAT KRONOS. MY GHOST SPIES KEEP ME WELL INFORMED OF HIS PLANS.
BY TONIGHT, IT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR YOUR PRECIOUS MOUNT OLYMPUS. THE TRAP WILL BE SPRUNG.
COWARD!
SHKK
VANISHED.

I THINK THE RIVER THING WORKED.
YOU *THINK*? THEY FIRED AT YOU *POINT-BLANK*. THERE ISN'T A SCRATCH ON YOU.
GO TO YOUR FATHER, NICO. FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO MOUNT OLYMPUS AND CONVINCE HIM TO HELP.
YOU'RE HIS SON. YOU'RE THE *ONLY* PERSON WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET HIM TO LISTEN.
THAT'S A *DEPRESSING* THOUGHT. I'LL DO MY BEST...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
GET THIS *WAR* STARTED.

EMPIRE STATE

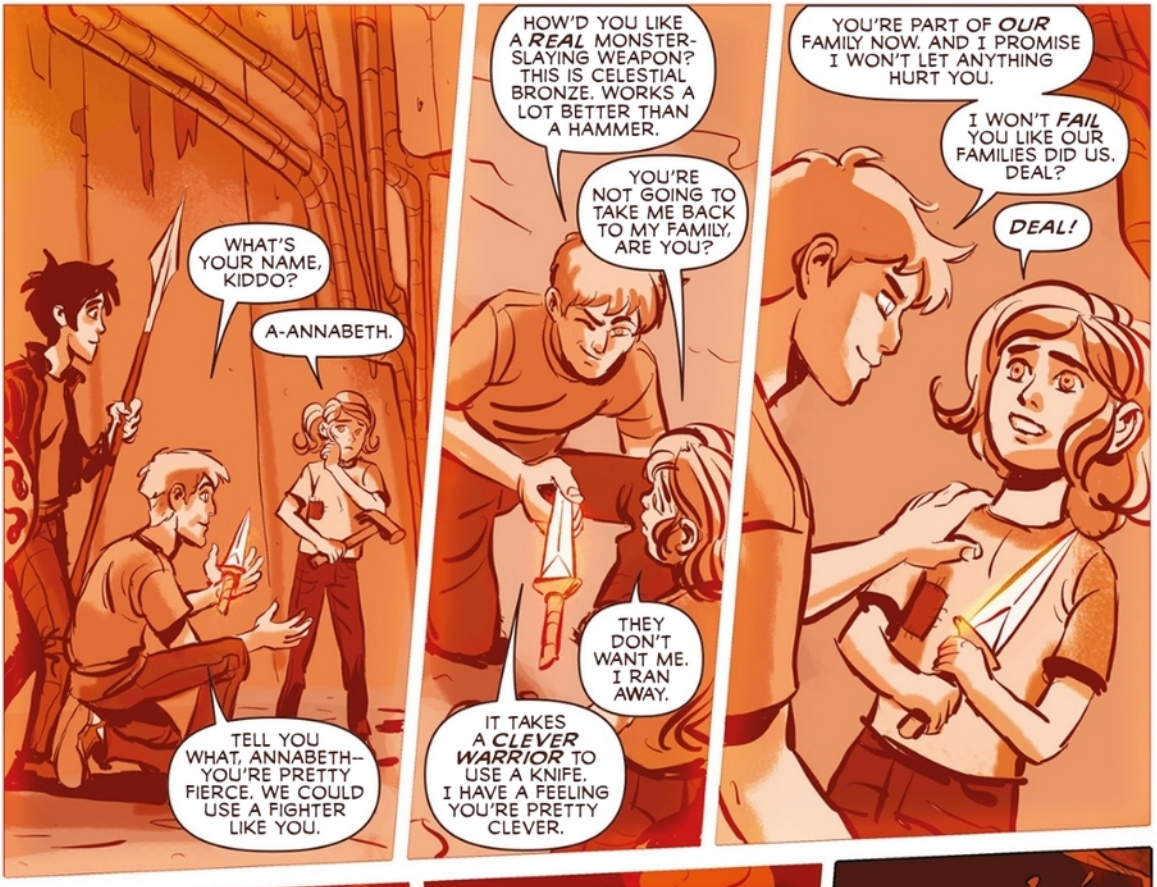
MANHATTAN.
THE LOBBY OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING.
WE NEED TO GET TO THE SIX HUNDREDTH FLOOR.
THERE IS NO SIX HUNDREDTH FLOOR. MOVE ALONG.
MY MOM SAYS IT'S RUDE NOT TO LOOK AT PEOPLE WHEN YOU TALK TO THEM.
AAA!

FORTY DEMIGODS ATTRACT AN AWFUL LOT OF MONSTERS. YOU REALLY WANT US HANGING OUT IN YOUR LOBBY?

H-HAVE IT YOUR WAY, KID. ELEVATOR ON THE RIGHT.
THANKS. I KNOW THE WAY.

"THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME I'VE DROPPED BY *OLYMPUS*."
ANNABETH AND I WILL TAKE IT FROM HERE. SILENA, TAKE THE REST AND STAND GUARD OUTSIDE.
KRONOS IS PLANNING SOMETHING TONIGHT. I KNOW IT.
YOU GOT IT, PERCY.
THE THRONE ROOM. I'VE NEVER SEEN IT... *EMPTY*. THE GODS REALLY ARE ALL AWAY FIGHTING TYPHON.
PERFECT TIME FOR KRONOS TO *ATTACK*. THE CITY IS UNDEFENDED.
HELLO AGAIN, PERCY JACKSON.

LADY HESTIA.
I SEE YOU WENT THROUGH WITH YOUR PLAN. YOU BEAR THE CURSE OF ACHILLES.
PERCY? WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT?
YOU MUST BE CAREFUL.
YOU GAINED MUCH ON YOUR JOURNEY. BUT YOU ARE STILL BLIND TO THE MOST IMPORTANT TRUTH.
"PERHAPS A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST IS IN ORDER."
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
THERE'S SOMETHING DOWN HERE. I SENSE IT.
AAAAA!
GO AWAY, MONSTERS!
IT'S OKAY! IT'S OKAY! WE AREN'T GOING TO HURT YOU.
I'M LUKE. THIS IS THALIA.
WE KNOW ALL ABOUT MONSTERS. WE FIGHT THEM, TOO.
SNIFF
YOU'RE... LIKE ME?


WHAT'S YOUR NAME, KIDDO?
A-ANNABETH.
TELL YOU WHAT, ANNABETH– YOU'RE PRETTY FIERCE. WE COULD USE A FIGHTER LIKE YOU.
HOW'D YOU LIKE A *REAL* MONSTER-SLAYING WEAPON? THIS IS CELESTIAL BRONZE. WORKS A LOT BETTER THAN A HAMMER.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE ME BACK TO MY FAMILY, ARE YOU?
THEY DON'T WANT ME. I RAN AWAY.
IT TAKES A *CLEVER WARRIOR* TO USE A KNIFE. I HAVE A FEELING YOU'RE PRETTY CLEVER.
YOU'RE PART OF *OUR* FAMILY NOW. AND I PROMISE I WON'T LET ANYTHING HURT YOU.
I WON'T *FAIL* YOU LIKE OUR FAMILIES DID US. DEAL?
DEAL!

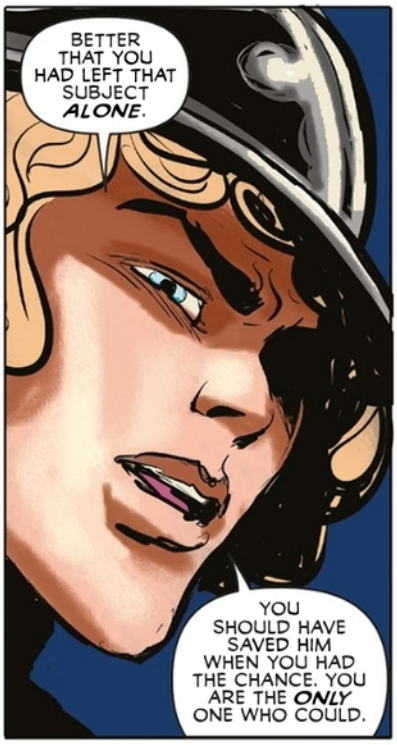
UHNNNN
PERCY? WHAT'S WRONG?
DID... DID YOU SEE THAT?
HOW LONG WAS I OUT?
YOU WEREN'T OUT AT ALL.
YOU LOOKED AT HESTIA FOR LIKE *ONE SECOND* AND COLLAPSED.

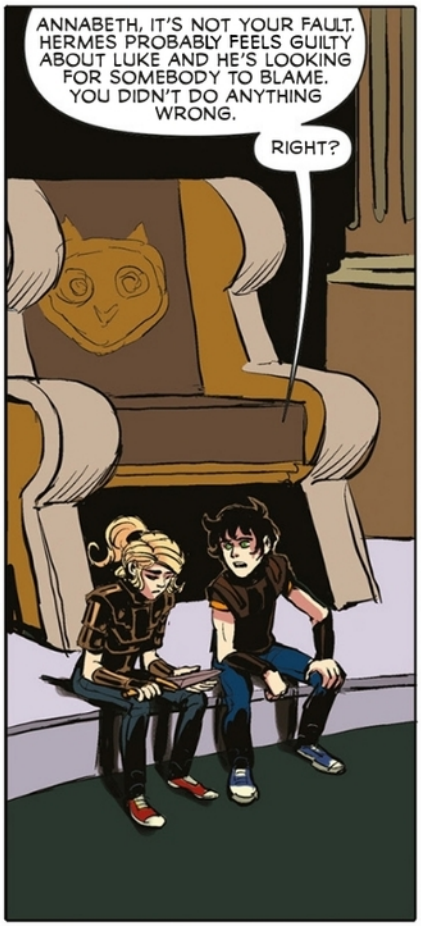
UM, LADY HESTIA, WE'VE COME ON *URGENT BUSINESS*. WE NEED TO SEE--
WE *KNOW* WHAT YOU NEED.

LORD HERMES, KRONOS IS GOING TO ATTACK NEW YORK.
YOU MUST SUSPECT THAT. ASK ZEUS TO SEND SOME OF THE GODS BACK TO DEFEND THE CITY.
ANNABETH CHASE. *ATHENA* KNEW YOU WOULD COME HERE. SHE, TOO, THINKS THE BATTLE AGAINST TYPHON IS A *RUSE* MEANT TO DRAW US AWAY FROM OLYMPUS.
YOU AND YOUR MOTHER SEEM TO FORGET THAT TYPHON NEARLY DESTROYED US AGES AGO. HE IS OUR *GREATEST ENEMY*. WE GODS NEED *ALL* OUR POWER TO DEFEAT HIM.
THE DEMIGODS MUST DEFEND MANHATTAN ALONE.

PERCY, ATHENA TOLD ME TO CONVEY A *MESSAGE* TO YOU. "REMEMBER THE RIVERS."
I MUST RETURN NOW. I HAVE A *WAR* TO FIGHT.
LORD HERMES. I...

...I WANTED TO SAY... I'M SORRY.
ABOUT LUKE.


BETTER THAT YOU HAD LEFT THAT SUBJECT *ALONE*.
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAVED HIM WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE. YOU ARE THE *ONLY* ONE WHO COULD.

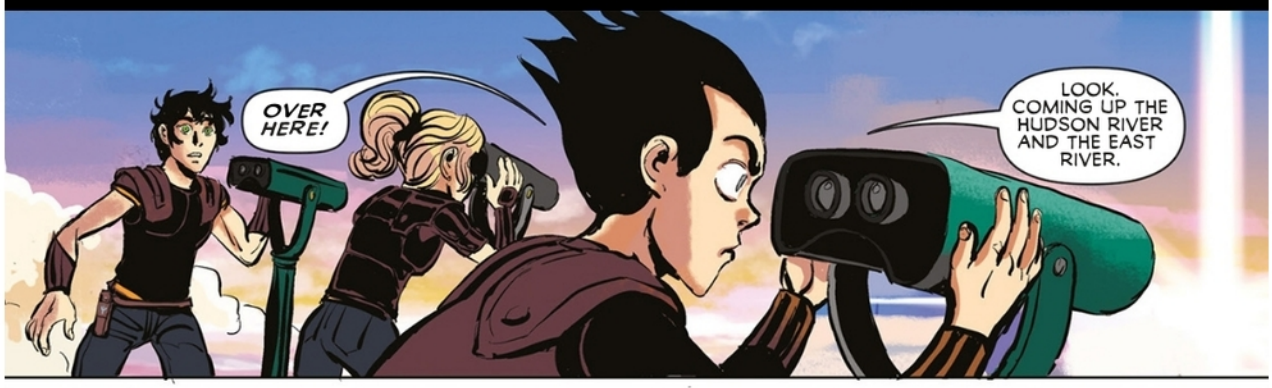

ANNABETH, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. HERMES PROBABLY FEELS GUILTY ABOUT LUKE AND HE'S LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY TO BLAME. YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
RIGHT?

HESTIA MENTIONED THE CURSE OF ACHILLES. DID YOU...
...DID YOU BATHE IN THE *RIVER STYX*?
UM, IT WAS MORE LIKE A SHORT SWIM.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW *DANGEROUS* THAT WAS?
I HAD NO CHOICE. IT'S THE *ONLY WAY* I CAN STAND UP TO LUKE.

DI IMMORTALES, OF COURSE! THAT'S WHY LUKE DIDN'T DIE WHEN KRONOS *POSSESSED* HIM.
HE WENT TO THE STYX...
OH NO, LUKE. WHAT WERE YOU *THINKING*?
SO NOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT *LUKE* AGAIN. GREAT.

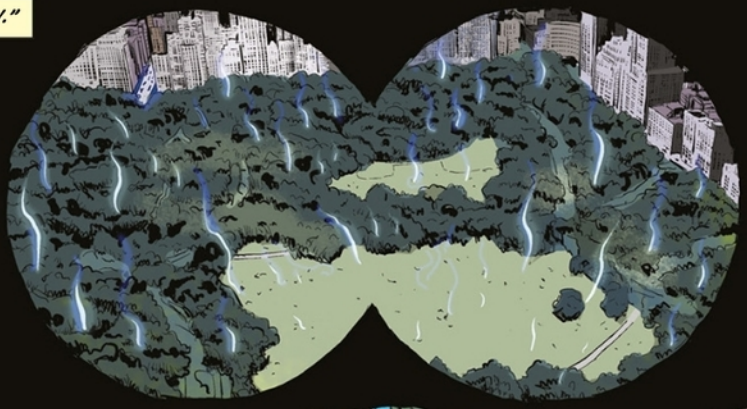
WHAT?
FORGET IT.
PERCY! ANNABETH! YOU NEED TO SEE THIS.


OVER HERE!
LOOK. COMING UP THE HUDSON RIVER AND THE EAST RIVER.

ATC 106
nd Ferry
NEW YORK

THE INVASION HAS STARTED.

"NOW."



IS EVERYONE... DEAD?
NOT DEAD. *MORPHEUS.* HE TOLD GROVER HE WAS SAVING HIS ENERGY FOR THE MAIN EVENT.
HE'S PUT THE *ENTIRE ISLAND* OF MANHATTAN TO SLEEP, JUST LIKE THE PROPHECY SAID.

"AND SEE THE WORLD IN *ENDLESS SLEEP*."

MORE MONSTERS MARCHING THROUGH THE *TUNNELS!*
WHICH TUNNELS?
...*ALL* OF THEM.
EACH CABIN, TAKE A TUNNEL. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY MONSTERS COME AT YOU. YOU ARE THE *GREATEST HEROES* OF THIS MILLENNIUM.
FIGHT BRAVELY, AND WE WILL WIN.
FOR OLYMPUS!
FOR OLYMPUS!
FOR OLYMPUS!
ANNABETH, MEET ME BACK IN MANHATTAN. BATTERY PARK.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

REMEMBER THE RIVERS.

HEY! I HEARD YOU GUYS ARE SO POLLUTED YOU'RE EMBARRASSED TO SHOW YOUR FACES. IS THAT TRUE?
IS IT THE EAST RIVER IS MORE TOXIC, BUT THE HUDSON SMELLS WORSE? OR IS IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND?
SON OF POSEIDON?
YEP.
TOOK A DIP IN THE RIVER STYX?
YEP.
WELL, THAT'S PERFECT.
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO KILL YOU?

YOU AREN'T. YOU'RE GOING TO KILL THE MONSTERS CROSSING YOUR WATERS INSTEAD.
THE POWER OF POSEIDON...
KRAKT
HE'S A JERK, BUT A SAND DOLLAR LIKE THAT CAN REALLY SWEEP THE POLLUTION AWAY.
YOU EACH GET HALF. IN EXCHANGE, YOU KEEP ALL OF KRONOS'S FORCES FROM CROSSING THE RIVERS INTO MANHATTAN.
PIECE OF CAKE, KID. CARGO BARGE JUST GOT SUNK.
AND THE FERRY JUST CAPSIZED.
THANK YOU. STAY CLEAN.
IT WORKED! THE RIVERS ARE SAFE!
GOOD, BECAUSE WE'VE GOT OTHER PROBLEMS. THE APOLLO CABIN NEEDS HELP AT THE WILLIAMSBURG BRIDGE.
ANOTHER ARMY IS ON THE MARCH. AND THE MONSTER LEADING IT...

"...IT'S THE MINOTAUR."
MWROOOOO
KRADOOOM
HEY! BEEF BOY!
SNRT

DIDN'T I KILL YOU ONCE ALREADY?
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO ONE-ON-ONE? JUST LIKE OLD TIMES.
MMROOAAGH!
AW, YOU BROKE YOUR WIDDLE AXE.
SLAKKT
MOO?
WUMMP

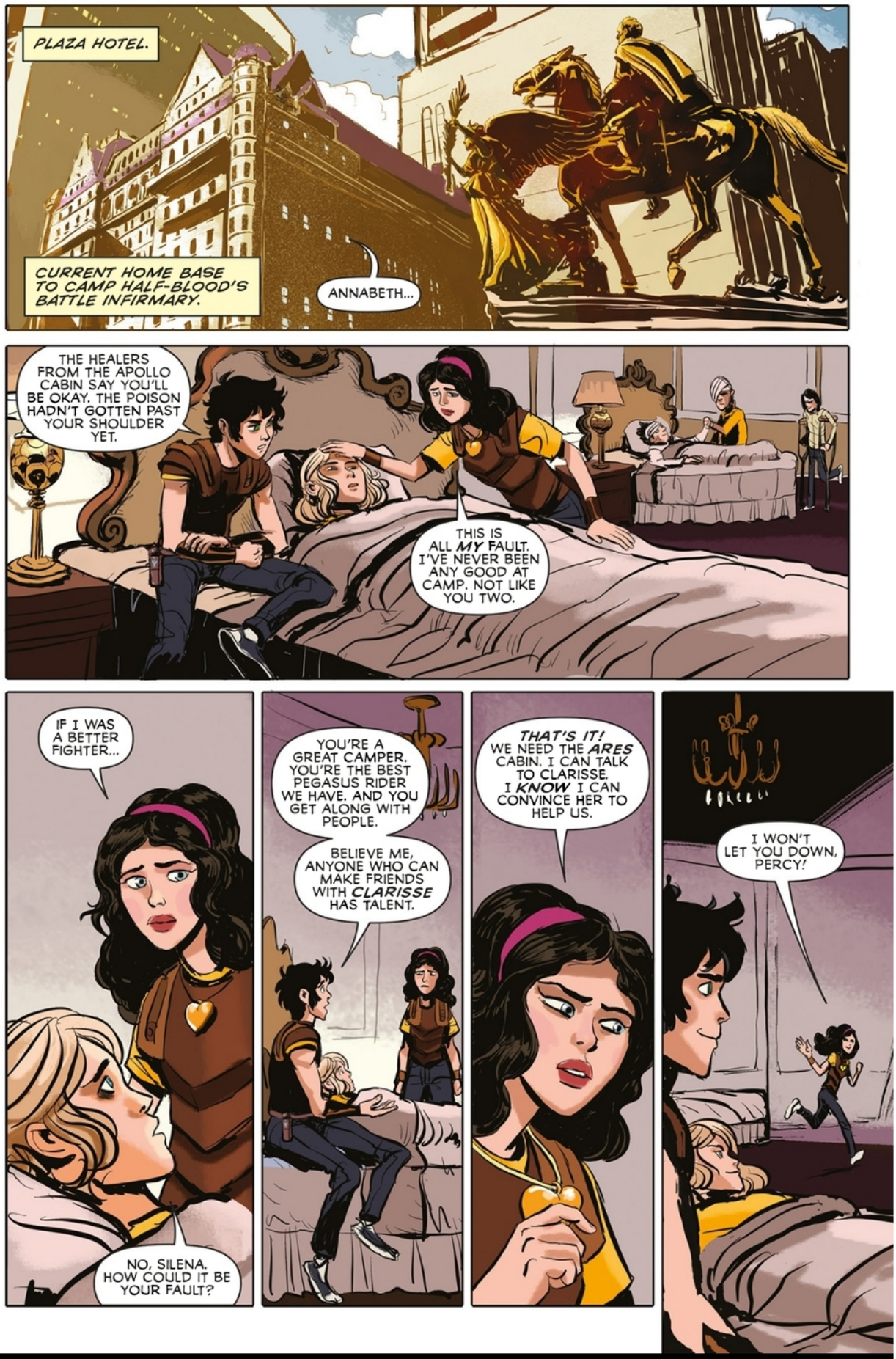
UH-OH.
MWRooooo!
KRUNCH.
FFFT

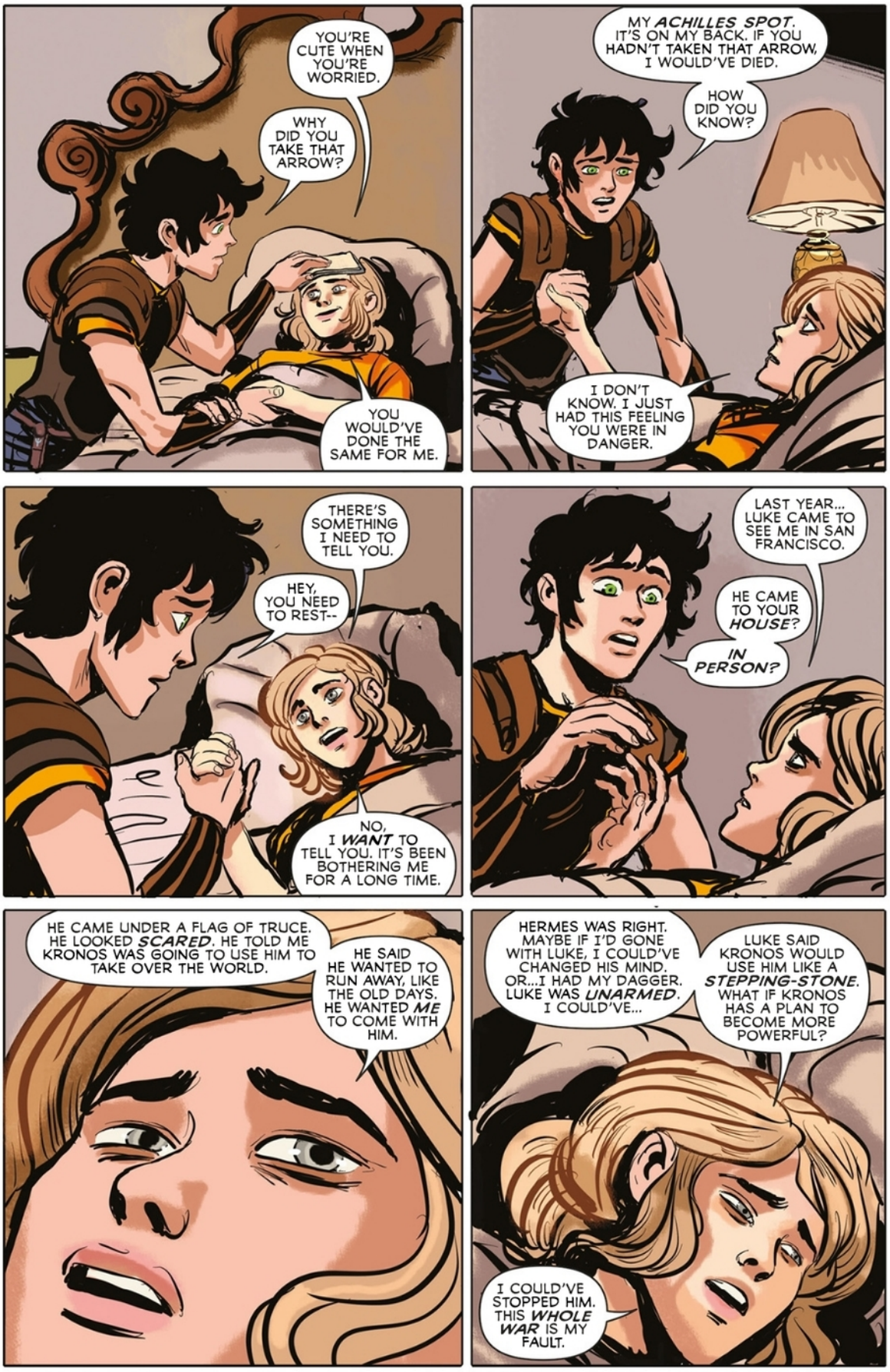
THANKS FOR PLAYING.
PERCY! BEHIND YOU!
AGH!
ANNABETH!

SHE'S WOUNDED. HER BLOOD IS TAINTED. POISON.
SHE NEEDS MEDICINE.
BRAVELY FOUGHT, PERCY JACKSON.
BUT IT'S TIME TO SURRENDER.

WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WOUNDED, PERCY. AGAINST JUST THE MONSTERS, MAYBE WE HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE...
...BUT WITH KRONOS LEADING THEM? NO WAY.
RRAAGH!
SHRAKKAK
FLOOOSH!

HMPH.
YOU'VE STOPPED NOTHING, JACKSON. MERELY DELAYED THE INEVITABLE.
UNTIL THIS EVENING.
MEDICS!


PLAZA HOTEL.
CURRENT HOME BASE TO CAMP HALF-BLOOD'S BATTLE INFIRMARY.
ANNABETH...
THE HEALERS FROM THE APOLLO CABIN SAY YOU'LL BE OKAY. THE POISON HADN'T GOTTEN PAST YOUR SHOULDER YET.
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. I'VE NEVER BEEN ANY GOOD AT CAMP. NOT LIKE YOU TWO.
IF I WAS A BETTER FIGHTER...
NO, SILENA. HOW COULD IT BE YOUR FAULT?
YOU'RE A GREAT CAMPER. YOU'RE THE BEST PEGASUS RIDER WE HAVE. AND YOU GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE.
BELIEVE ME, ANYONE WHO CAN MAKE FRIENDS WITH CLARISSE HAS TALENT.
THAT'S IT! WE NEED THE ARES CABIN. I CAN TALK TO CLARISSE. I KNOW I CAN CONVINCE HER TO HELP US.
I WON'T LET YOU DOWN, PERCY!

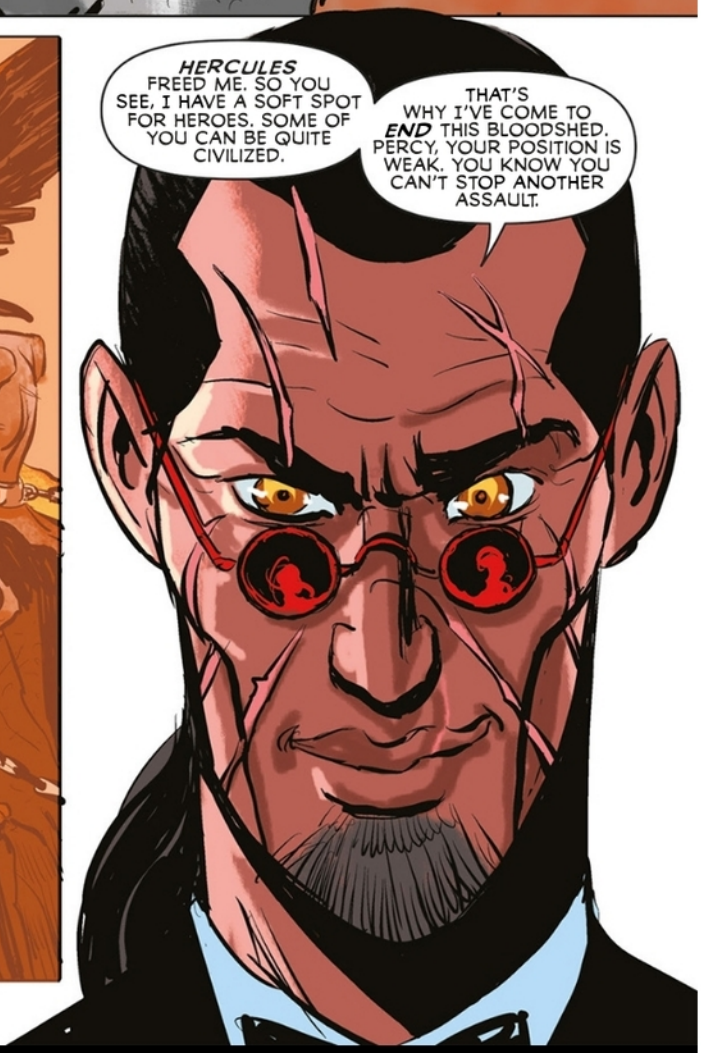

YOU'RE CUTE WHEN YOU'RE WORRIED.
WHY DID YOU TAKE THAT ARROW?
YOU WOULD'VE DONE THE SAME FOR ME.
MY ACHILLES SPOT. IT'S ON MY BACK. IF YOU HADN'T TAKEN THAT ARROW, I WOULD'VE DIED.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I DON'T KNOW. I JUST HAD THIS FEELING YOU WERE IN DANGER.
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU.
HEY, YOU NEED TO REST--
NO, I WANT TO TELL YOU. IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME FOR A LONG TIME.
LAST YEAR... LUKE CAME TO SEE ME IN SAN FRANCISCO.
HE CAME TO YOUR HOUSE?
IN PERSON?
HE CAME UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE. HE LOOKED SCARED. HE TOLD ME KRONOS WAS GOING TO USE HIM TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD.
HE SAID HE WANTED TO RUN AWAY, LIKE THE OLD DAYS. HE WANTED ME TO COME WITH HIM.
HERMES WAS RIGHT. MAYBE IF I'D GONE WITH LUKE, I COULD'VE CHANGED HIS MIND. OR...I HAD MY DAGGER. LUKE WAS UNARMED. I COULD'VE...
LUKE SAID KRONOS WOULD USE HIM LIKE A STEPPING-STONE. WHAT IF KRONOS HAS A PLAN TO BECOME MORE POWERFUL?
I COULD'VE STOPPED HIM. THIS WHOLE WAR IS MY FAULT.

IT'S OKAY. YOU KNOW KILLING LUKE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN RIGHT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT NOW.
PERCY? GROVER IS HERE. YOU SHOULD HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.
I HEARD ABOUT ANNABETH. IS SHE...?
SHE'S GOING TO BE FINE. SHE'S RESTING.
SO WHAT'S UP?
I DID WHAT YOU SAID. I COLLECTED FORCES AND WENT AFTER MORPHEUS.
WE RAN INTO A PACK OF GIANTS AT FORT WASHINGTON. THE RIVER SPIRITS DROWNED THE GIANTS IN THE END, BUT LOSSES WERE HEAVY.
TWENTY SATYRS DIED.

IT GETS WORSE.
THALIA? THE HUNTERS OF ARTEMIS ARE HERE?
DIDN'T THINK WE'D MISS THE FUN, DID YOU?
WE SEALED OFF THE SUBWAY TUNNELS INTO MANHATTAN, BUT KRONOS'S FORCES ARE STILL GATHERING. I THINK HE'S WAITING FOR A NIGHT ATTACK.
MOST OF HIS MONSTERS ARE MORE POWERFUL AT NIGHT.
AND THE WAY KRONOS SHOWED UP AT THE WILLIAMSBURG BRIDGE, IT'S LIKE HE KNEW WHERE OUR WEAKEST POINTS WOULD BE.
HIS SPY IS STILL SENDING HIM INFORMATION.
THERE'S A SPY?
SOMEONE INSIDE CAMP HALF-BLOOD. IT COULD BE ANY OF US.
BUT WE CAN'T OBSESS ABOUT THAT NOW.
IF WE'RE SUPSICIOUS OF EACH OTHER, WE'LL TEAR OURSELVES APART.
PERCY...THERE'S ONE MORE THING.
ON OUR WAY HERE WE ENCOUNTERED A TITAN. HE'S WAITING TO MEET YOU UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE.

"HE HAS A MESSAGE FROM KRONOS."
PERCY JACKSON.
IT'S A GREAT HONOR TO MEET YOU.
I AM PROMETHEUS.
THE FIRE-STEALER GUY? THE CHAINED-TO-THE-ROCK-WITH-THE-VULTURES GUY?

YES, I STOLE FIRE FROM THE GODS AND GAVE IT TO YOUR ANCESTORS.
IN RETURN, THE EVER MERCIFUL ZEUS HAD ME CHAINED TO A ROCK TO BE TORTURED FOR ALL ETERNITY.


HERCULES FREED ME. SO YOU SEE, I HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR HEROES. SOME OF YOU CAN BE QUITE CIVILIZED.
THAT'S WHY I'VE COME TO END THIS BLOODSHED. PERCY, YOUR POSITION IS WEAK. YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T STOP ANOTHER ASSAULT.

WE KNOW YOUR NUMBERS. WE OUTNUMBER YOU TWENTY TO ONE, AND OUR FORCES GROW. TONIGHT, KRONOS WILL ATTACK. YOU WILL BE *OVERWHELMED*.
YOU WILL RETREAT TO THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, WHERE YOU'LL BE DESTROYED. I'VE SEEN THIS. IT *WILL* HAPPEN.
I'M THE TITAN OF *FORETHOUGHT*.

HE'S ALSO THE TITAN OF CRAFTY COUNSEL. EMPHASIS ON *CRAFTY*.
THE HUNTERS OF ARTEMIS WILL FIGHT TO OUR *LAST BREATH*.
PERCY, YOU'RE NOT SERIOUSLY GOING TO LISTEN TO THIS *SLIMEBALL*, ARE YOU?

NONE OF YOU NEED BE MY *ENEMY*. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A HELPER OF MANKIND, WHISPERING IN YOUR EAR SINCE THE BEGINNING OF YOUR EXISTENCE.
I REPRESENT YOUR CURIOSITY, YOUR SENSE OF EXPLORATION, YOUR INVENTIVENESS. I GAVE YOU FIRE, AND MANKIND *THRIVED*. THE GODS PUNISHED ME FOR IT. THEY WISH YOU TO REMAIN LOW.
PERCY...HE'S PLAYING WITH YOUR MIND. TRYING TO MAKE YOU ANGRY.

AM I?
THINK ABOUT IT. THE GODS KNOW WHAT IS TO COME, AND YET THEY DO *NOTHING*, EVEN FOR THEIR CHILDREN.
DID HERMES WARN YOUR FRIEND *LUKE* ABOUT HIS FUTURE? NOT EVEN WITH MAY CASTELLAN'S GIFT THAT BECAME A *CURSE*. HOW LONG DID IT TAKE FOR THEM TO TELL YOU *YOUR* PROPHECY, PERCY JACKSON?
KRONOS OFFERS YOU A BETTER DEAL. SURRENDER NOW, AND NO HARM WILL COME TO THIS CITY. KRONOS WANTS *OLYMPUS*, AND NOTHING MORE.

YEAH?
I'LL GIVE *YOU* A DEAL: TELL KRONOS TO CALL OFF HIS ATTACK, LEAVE LUKE'S BODY, AND RETURN TO THE PIT OF TARTARUS.
THEN MAYBE I WON'T HAVE TO *DESTROY* HIM.
YOUR OBSTINANCE IS REGRETTABLE.
IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND--
--I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU.
THIS BELONGED TO MY SISTER-IN-LAW. *PANDORA.*

AS IN... *PANDORA'S BOX*?
I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS *BOX* BUSINESS GOT STARTED. IT WAS NEVER A BOX. IT WAS A *PITHOS*-- A STORAGE JAR.
BUT YES, SHE DID OPEN THIS JAR, WHICH CONTAINED MOST OF THE DEMONS THAT *HAUNT* MANKIND TO THIS DAY.
FEAR, DEATH, HUNGER, SICKNESS. ONLY *ONE* SPIRIT REMAINED INSIDE.

HOPE.

VERY GOOD, PERCY. ELPIS, THE SPIRIT OF HOPE, WOULD NOT ABANDON HUMANITY.
HOPE DOES NOT LEAVE WITHOUT BEING GIVEN PERMISSION. SHE CAN ONLY BE RELEASED BY A CHILD OF MAN.
I GIVE YOU THIS AS A REMINDER OF WHAT THE GODS ARE LIKE. KEEP ELPIS, IF YOU WISH.
BUT IF YOU DECIDE THAT YOU HAVE SEEN ENOUGH DESTRUCTION--ENOUGH FUTILE SUFFERING--THEN OPEN THE JAR. LET ELPIS GO. GIVE UP HOPE, AND I WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE SURRENDERING.
I PROMISE KRONOS WILL BE LENIENT. HE WILL SPARE THE SURVIVORS.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I DON'T WANT THIS THING!
TOO LATE. THE GIFT IS GIVEN. IT CANNOT BE TAKEN BACK.
WE WILL SEE YOU AGAIN SOON, PERCY JACKSON.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

WHAT IF PROMETHEUS IS *RIGHT*? WHAT IF THE GODS COULD'VE WARNED LUKE AND STOPPED ALL THIS FROM HAPPENING?
PERCY, YOU CAN'T START FEELING SORRY FOR LUKE. WE ALL HAVE TOUGH THINGS TO DEAL WITH. *ALL* DEMIGODS DO.
OUR PARENTS ARE HARDLY EVER AROUND. BUT LUKE MADE BAD CHOICES. NOBODY FORCED HIM TO TURN SIDES. TO GIVE HIMSELF TO KRONOS.

YOU'RE RIGHT.
GROVER, TAKE THE VASE TO MOUNT OLYMPUS. GIVE IT TO HESTIA.
WHY?

BECAUSE HOPE SURVIVES BEST AT THE HEARTH. WITH HESTIA GUARDING IT, WE WON'T BE TEMPTED TO GIVE IT UP.

IT'LL BE NIGHT SOON, THALIA.
MAYBE OUR *LAST* NIGHT.
ROUND UP EVERY WARRIOR WE HAVE. WE'LL MAKE OUR STAND AT *CENTRAL PARK*.

KRONOS'S FORCES MARCHED.

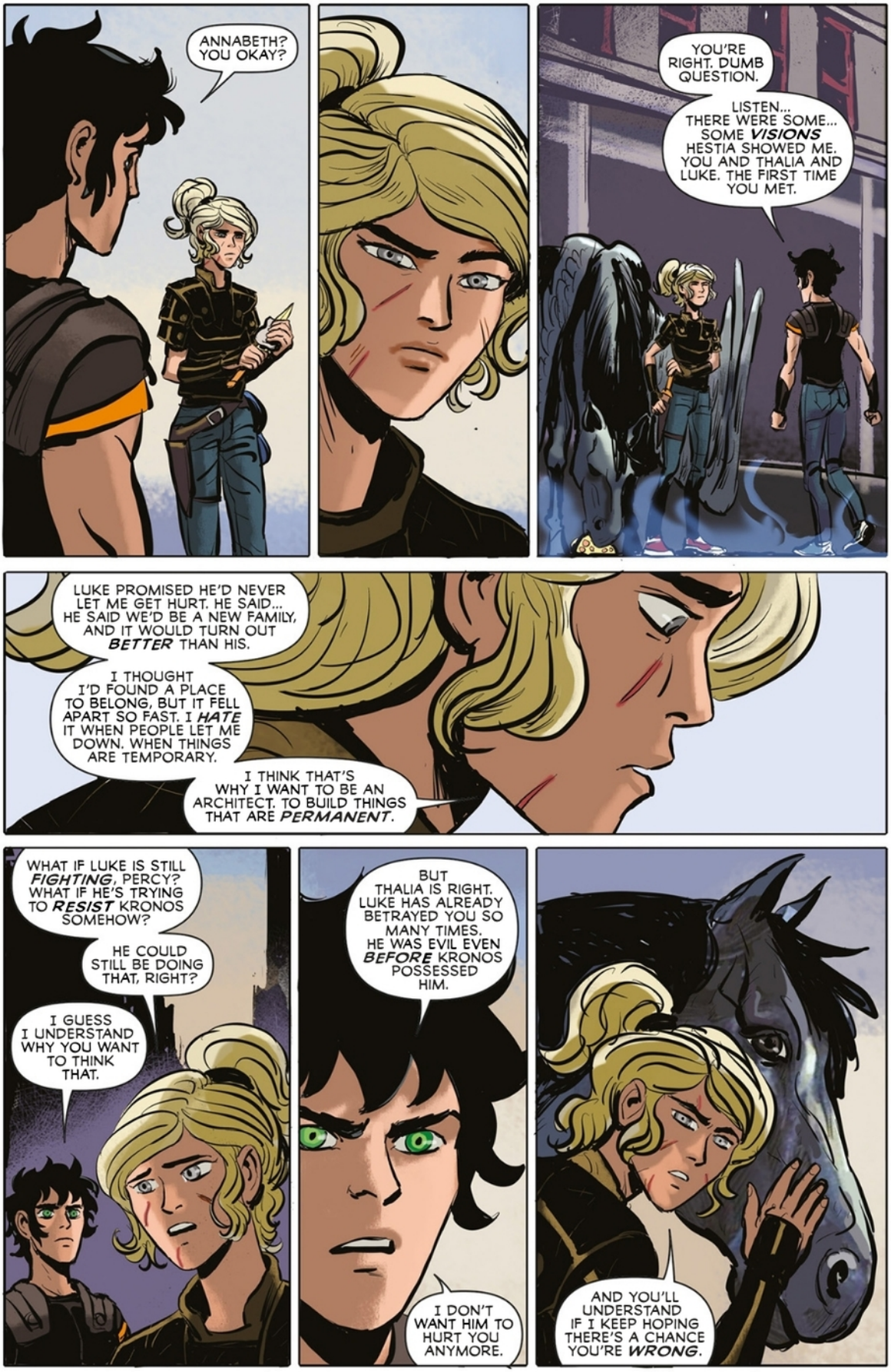
THE BATTLE WAS WORSE THAN EVER BEFORE.

PERCY AND GROVER DEFEATED HYPERION, THE TITAN OF THE EAST...
...THEN PERCY TOOK A RIDE WITH THE CLAZMONIAN SOW, SCOURGE OF ANCIENT GREECE.

THANK THE GODS, CHIRON AND THE PARTY PONIES ARRIVED TO DO THEIR PART.

AND ANOTHER DAWN BROKE WITH OUR HEROES SURVIVING THE NIGHT.
BARELY.
THANKS FOR HELPING OUT, CHIRON. KRONOS'S ARMY PUSHED US ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING.
WITHOUT YOU AND THE CENTAURS, I DON'T THINK WE WOULD'VE HELD.
Riordano's
PIZZERIA
5th Ave
ONE WAY
CHB
ROOT BEER

TIME IS SHORT. AS SOON AS KRONOS REGROUPS, HE WILL ATTACK AGAIN. WE WON'T HAVE THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE ON OUR SIDE.
AND TYPHON MARCHES EVER CLOSER. THE GODS HAVE SLOWED HIS APPROACH, BUT HE CANNOT BE STOPPED. ONCE HE AND KRONOS COMBINE FORCES...
THEN WHAT CHANCE DO WE HAVE? WE CAN'T HOLD OUT FOR ANOTHER DAY.
WE'LL HAVE TO.
I'LL SEE ABOUT SETTING SOME NEW TRAPS AROUND THE PERIMETER.
I WILL HELP. AND MAKE SURE MY BRETHREN DO NOT GET INTO ANY STOCKS OF ROOT BEER.
DRINK TOO MUCH OF THAT, AND THEY WILL BE POSITIVELY USELESS.


ANNABETH? YOU OKAY?
YOU'RE RIGHT. DUMB QUESTION.
LISTEN... THERE WERE SOME... SOME VISIONS HESTIA SHOWED ME. YOU AND THALIA AND LUKE. THE FIRST TIME YOU MET.
LUKE PROMISED HE'D NEVER LET ME GET HURT. HE SAID... HE SAID WE'D BE A NEW FAMILY, AND IT WOULD TURN OUT BETTER THAN HIS.
I THOUGHT I'D FOUND A PLACE TO BELONG, BUT IT FELL APART SO FAST. I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE LET ME DOWN. WHEN THINGS ARE TEMPORARY.
I THINK THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BE AN ARCHITECT. TO BUILD THINGS THAT ARE PERMANENT.
WHAT IF LUKE IS STILL FIGHTING, PERCY? WHAT IF HE'S TRYING TO RESIST KRONOS SOMEHOW?
HE COULD STILL BE DOING THAT, RIGHT?
I GUESS I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT TO THINK THAT.
BUT THALIA IS RIGHT. LUKE HAS ALREADY BETRAYED YOU SO MANY TIMES. HE WAS EVIL EVEN BEFORE KRONOS POSSESSED HIM.
I DON'T WANT HIM TO HURT YOU ANYMORE.
AND YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I KEEP HOPING THERE'S A CHANCE YOU'RE WRONG.

DO YOU HEAR THAT?
WHUP WHUP WHUP
DARE Enterprises
WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
PERCY! UP HERE!
DARE Enterprises
...RACHEL?
WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?

WMMM
DARE Enterprises
AAAGH! WE'RE FALLING!
WAKE UP!
THE MORPHEUS ENCHANTMENT! THE PILOT IS ASLEEP!
FIGURES.

I'LL HANDLE THIS!
DARE Enterprises
DARE Enterprises
DARE Enterprises
WHUP WHUP WHUP

YOU...YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
YEAH, WELL, LET'S NOT MAKE A HABIT OF IT.
DARE
YOU CAN FLY A HELICOPTER?!
I GUESS SO. NEVER REALLY TRIED BEFORE.
BUT YOU KNOW HOW MY DAD IS CRAZY INTO AVIATION. I TOOK MY BEST GUESS AT THE CONTROLS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, DARE? DON'T YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO FLY INTO A WAR ZONE?
I MADE A DEAL WITH MY DAD TO LOAN ME HIS CORPORATE HELICOPTER.
I HAD TO BE HERE. I KNEW PERCY WAS IN TROUBLE. I'VE BEEN SEEING THINGS.
AND I DON'T JUST MEAN HOW I CAN SEE MONSTERS. THIS IS DIFFERENT. I'M SEEING IMAGES. LINES OF TEXT.
THERE'S A MESSAGE I HAVE TO GIVE YOU. I CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD.
"PERSEUS, YOU ARE NOT THE HERO."
YOU HAVE INTERESTING INSIGHTS, RACHEL DARE.
NOT THE HERO OF THE GREAT PROPHECY? NOT THE HERO WHO'LL DEFEAT KRONOS?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'M...I'M SORRY, PERCY. THAT'S ALL I KNOW I HAD TO TELL YOU BECAUSE—

HRRRRRAWWG!
A DRAKON!
EMPIRE STATE
NOT JUST ANY DRAKON. A LYDIAN DRAKON, THE MOST DANGEROUS KIND. THAT ONE HAS A PARTICULAR FATE. IT WILL BE KILLED BY A CHILD OF ARES.
DON'T ASK ME HOW I KNOW THAT.
WELL, THAT'S JUST PERFECT BECAUSE CLARISSE--
SOMETHING... SOMETHING IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. "A TRICK THAT ENDS IN DEATH."

ARES!
TO ME!
FOR OLYMPUS!

IT'S CLARISSE!
EEESSSSS!
ATTACK!
HSSSSS!
FWOOOST
AAAAAGH!

CLARISSE!
NO!
CHILD!

WHY?
WHY?

NO...
WAIT...
...WHICH ONE IS CLARISSE?

YOU WANT DEATH, DRAKON?!

WELL, COME ON!
YAH!
SHRAKKAKK
HRRRAWWGG
EEESSSSSS

OH, NO.
NO, NO, NO...

IT'S LIKE RACHEL SAID.

SILENA...
...WHAT DID YOU DO?

AND NONE OF YOU NOTICED?
DON'T BLAME THEM... THEY WANTED TO... TO BELIEVE I WAS YOU.
ALL MY FAULT...THE DRAKON, CHARLIE'S DEATH...CAMP ENDANGERED...
YOU'RE KRONOS'S SPY.
JACKSON, I WILL GUT YOU IF YOU EVER SAY THAT AGAIN.
BEFORE... BEFORE I LIKED CHARLIE, LUKE WAS NICE TO ME. SO... CHARMING. LATER, I WANTED TO STOP HELPING HIM... BUT HE THREATENED TO TELL...
...HE PROMISED I WAS SAVING LIVES. FEWER PEOPLE...WOULD GET HURT. HE LIED TO ME. HE TOLD ME...HE SAID HE WOULDN'T HURT CHARLIE.
CHARLIE?

WOULDN'T LISTEN...CABIN WOULD... ONLY FOLLOW YOU.

SO YOU STOLE MY ARMOR. YOU WAITED UNTIL CHRIS AND I WENT OUT ON PATROL. YOU STOLE MY ARMOR AND ***PRETENDED*** TO BE ***ME***.

SHE WAS A HERO. UNDERSTAND?
A HERO.
KRONOS IS GOING TO PAY.
5th Ave
PIZZERIA
YOU TRIED TO TELL ME. LUKE IS NO GOOD. I DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU. UNTIL NOW.
I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY.
5th Ave
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME HAPPY.
5th Ave
PERCY!

"KRONOS IS ADVANCING AGAIN!"
350
IT'S FINISHED, CHIRON. YOU AND YOUR HALF-BLOOD WHELPS WERE NEVER ENOUGH TO OPPOSE ME.
STEP ASIDE, LITTLE SON.
I'M AFRAID NOT, FATHER.

SWAKK
SO POINTLESS.
...NO.
YOUR QUIVER IS SPENT.
YOU'RE A TEACHER, NOT A HERO.
WAS A HERO. A GOOD ONE, UNTIL YOU CORRUPTED HIM.
FOOL! YOU FILLED HIS HEAD WITH EMPTY PROMISES!
YOU SAID THE GODS CARED ABOUT ME!
ME.
YOU SAID "ME."

BACK!
CHIRON!
WHAMM
YOU!
TO THINK THAT I...THAT I THOUGHT THERE WAS STILL GOOD IN YOU...
I HATE YOU!
...ANNABETH?

THERE'S BEEN QUITE ENOUGH OF THIS WAR, KRONOS.
HADES.
I HOPE YOU HAVE COME TO PLEDGE YOUR ALLEGIANCE.
THEN YOU WILL BE DISAPPOINTED. MY SON CONVINCED ME THAT I SHOULD PRIORITIZE MY LIST OF ENEMIES.
I MAY BICKER WITH MY SIBLINGS, BUT THERE IS ONE THING WE ALL AGREE ON: YOU WERE A TERRIBLE FATHER.
ARMY OF THE UNDERWORLD! ATTACK!
TODAY, THE HOUSE OF HADES WILL BE CALLED THE SAVIORS OF OLYMPUS!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
ONCE OLYMPUS HAS FALLEN, HADES--
--YOUR INSOLENCE WILL BE DEALT WITH!
THWAKK

HE'S BLOCKING EVERYONE OUT WITH SOME KIND OF MAGIC BARRIER!
NO KIDDING, SEAWEED BRAIN!
COME ON!
"WE HAVE TO STOP HIM!
"KRONOS IS GOING TO RAZE OLYMPUS!"

FINALLY! THE OLYMPIAN COUNCIL!

WHICH SEAT OF POWER SHOULD I DESTROY FIRST, HESTIA?
OR PERHAPS YOU'D PREFER TO RELEASE HOPE.

YOU ARE THE ONE GETTING DESTROYED TODAY, KRONOS.

SO THIS IS THE CHOICE YOU WILL MAKE, PERCY JACKSON. TO FIGHT ME AND DIE INSTEAD OF BOWING DOWN.
LOOKS LIKE IT. ARE YOU REALLY ALL THAT SURPRISED?
YOU SHOULD KNOW--
--PROPHECIES NEVER END WELL!
AGH!

WARNING: UNAUTHORIZED MORTAL DETECTED.
UH-OH.

ARRRGH!
ZZZZZ AKKAKK
DEFENSE MODE ACTIVATED.

...LUKE? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
I THINK I UNDERSTAND THE GREAT PROPHECY.
"THE HERO'S SOUL, CURSED BLADE SHALL REAP."
L-LUKE IS GONE!

YOU ARE TOO LATE, DEMIGODS.

"TYPHON ARRIVES AT LAST."
SPLOOOOSH
NOW, MY BRETHREN!
STRIKE FOR OLYMPUS!

PEANUT BUTTER!
RRRRAAAAAGH!

POSEIDON JOINS THE FIGHT!
ZZZAT
GODS OF OLYMPUS! ONE LAST PUSH WHILE THE MONSTER IS WEAKENED!
RAAAGLLL!
PULL, CYCLOPES!
PULL FOR KING POSEIDON!
GLB BLUBLUB

I FEEL THE POWER OF THE SEA BELOW, KRONOS. MY DAD SHOWED. THE GODS BEAT TYPHON.
THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY HERE. YOU'VE LOST.
BAH!
I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED!
STOP!
LUKE... YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME.
LUKE CASTELLAN IS DEAD!
HIS BODY WILL BURN AWAY AS I ASSUME MY TRUE FORM!

YOUR MOTHER. SHE SAW YOUR FATE. THE PROPHECY-- IT APPLIES TO YOU.
YOU PROMISED YOU'D NEVER LET ANYONE HURT ME. YOU'RE HOLDING BACK KRONOS EVEN NOW.
LIES!
FAMILY, LUKE...
...YOU... PROMISED.
I...
GET AWAY FROM HER!
...I PROMISED.

THE KNIFE, PERCY...
...HERO... CURSED BLADE...
I UNDERSTAND.
NO! DO NOT!
FAMILY...
I COMMAND YOU!
P-PLEASE, PERCY...
YOU CAN'T... CAN'T D-DO IT YOURSELF...HE'LL B-BREAK MY CONTROL.
G-GIVE IT... TO M-ME...
ARE YOU SURE, LUKE?
ALL THE UNCLAIMED CHILDREN OF THE GODS, PERCY...
...DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN.
I WON'T. I PROMISE.
ANNABETH...
...I'M SO SORRY.

GREEARRRGH!
FWAKKASSH
IT'S...
...IT'S OVER.
WE NEED A BURIAL SHROUD FOR *LUKE CASTELLAN*, SON OF HERMES.

"THE LINES OF THE GREAT PROPHECY MAKE SENSE NOW.
"'THE HERO'S SOUL, CURSED BLADE SHALL REAP.' THE HERO WAS LUKE, AND THE CURSED BLADE WAS THE KNIFE HE GAVE ANNABETH LONG AGO—CURSED BECAUSE LUKE BROKE HIS PROMISE AND BETRAYED HIS FRIENDS.
"'A SINGLE CHOICE SHALL END HIS DAYS.' MY CHOICE, TO GIVE LUKE THE KNIFE, AND TO BELIEVE HE COULD STILL SET THINGS RIGHT.
"'OLYMPUS TO PRESERVE OR RAZE.' BY SACRIFICING HIMSELF, LUKE SAVED OLYMPUS."
RACHEL WAS RIGHT. IN THE END, I WASN'T REALLY THE HERO.
LUKE WAS.

I THOUGHT HERMES WAS A BAD FATHER. I THOUGHT HE ABANDONED LUKE BECAUSE HE KNEW HIS FUTURE AND DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP IT.
BUT HE KNEW *MORE* THAN JUST THE BAD STUFF. LUKE'S MOM SAW IT, TOO. HERMES UNDERSTOOD WHAT LUKE WOULD DO IN THE END. THAT HE'D MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE.
BUT HE COULDN'T TELL HIM.

NO ONE CAN TAMPER WITH FATE. NOT EVEN A GOD. IF I'D TRIED TO WARN HIM OR INFLUENCE HIS CHOICES, I WOULD'VE MADE THINGS WORSE.
STAYING SILENT, STAYING AWAY FROM HIM...THAT WAS THE *HARDEST THING* I'VE EVER DONE.

LUKE WILL BE REMEMBERED AS A *HERO*, HERMES. I *DECREE* IT.

THAT BRINGS US TO THE MATTER OF THANKING OUR YOUNG DEMIGOD HEROES.
THALIA GRACE. YOU LED THE HUNTERS OF ARTEMIS WITH DISTINCTION. MANY WERE LOST, AND I WILL AID YOU MYSELF IN REFILLING THEIR RANKS.
ALL WHO FELL WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. THEY WILL ACHIEVE ELYSIUM.
THANK YOU, FATHER.
TYSON, SON OF POSEIDON. FOR YOUR BRAVERY IN WAR, YOU ARE APPOINTED A GENERAL IN THE ARMIES OF OLYMPUS.
YOU SHALL HENCEFORTH LEAD YOUR CYCLOPS BRETHREN INTO BATTLE WHENEVER REQUIRED BY THE GODS.
HOORAY!
GROVER UNDERWOOD. FOR YOUR BRAVERY AND SACRIFICE, YOU ARE APPOINTED TO THE COUNCIL OF CLOVEN ELDERS.
ALL SATYRS AND NATURE SPIRITS WILL HENCEFORTH TREAT YOU AS LORD OF THE WILD.
UM... REALLY?
NICO DI ANGELO, YOU RISKED MUCH.
FOR GUIDING PERCY AND SHOWING THE FORESIGHT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE WORLD OF THE LIVING COULD NOT SURVIVE WITHOUT THE REALM OF THE DEAD--
IF IT'S ALL THE SAME, ZEUS, DAD AND I WILL WORK IT OUT. TOGETHER.
ANNABETH CHASE. YOU HAVE EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS. YOUR WITS, YOUR STRENGTH, AND YOUR COURAGE MADE OUR VICTORY POSSIBLE. OLYMPUS SUFFERED MUCH DAMAGE IN THE BATTLE...
AS OFFICIAL ARCHITECT OF OLYMPUS, YOU WILL LEAD THE REBUILDING AND MAKE THE CITY A MONUMENT THAT WILL LAST FOR ANOTHER EON.
I'LL HAVE TO START PLANNING RIGHT AWAY. DRAFTING PAPER, PENCILS...

PERCY JACKSON. STEP FORWARD, MY SON.

A GREAT HERO MUST BE REWARDED.
IS THERE ANYONE HERE WHO WOULD DENY THAT MY SON IS DESERVING?
THE COUNCIL AGREES. PERCY JACKSON, YOU WILL HAVE ONE GIFT FROM THE GODS. THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL, ONE THAT HAS NOT BEEN BESTOWED ON A HERO IN MANY CENTURIES.
YOU SHALL BE MADE A GOD. IMMORTAL. UNDYING. TO SERVE AS YOUR FATHER'S LIEUTENANT FOR ALL TIME.

A... GOD?

NO.

NO? YOU ARE... TURNING DOWN THIS GENEROUS GIFT?

I'LL CHOOSE MY OWN GIFT.
FROM NOW ON, I WANT YOU ALL TO PROPERLY RECOGNIZE THE CHILDREN OF THE GODS.
OF ALL THE GODS.

THIS IS MOST UNPRECEDENTED.
KRONOS WOULDN'T HAVE RISEN IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR A LOT OF DEMIGODS WHO FELT ABANDONED BY THEIR PARENTS. LUKE MOST OF ALL.

SO NO MORE UNDETERMINED CHILDREN. I WANT YOU TO PROMISE TO CLAIM YOUR CHILDREN BY THE TIME THEY TURN THIRTEEN. THEY'LL BE BROUGHT TO CAMP AND TRAINED TO KNOW WHO THEY ARE AND HOW TO SURVIVE.

HMPH.
BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO BY A MERE CHILD. BUT, I SUPPOSE...

NO UNCLAIMED DEMIGODS WILL BE CRAMMED INTO THE HERMES CABIN ANYMORE, WONDERING WHO THEIR PARENTS ARE. THEY'LL HAVE THEIR OWN CABINS. EVEN HADES.
EVERY CHILD OF EVERY GOD WILL BE WELCOME AND TREATED WITH RESPECT.

ALL GODS IN FAVOR.

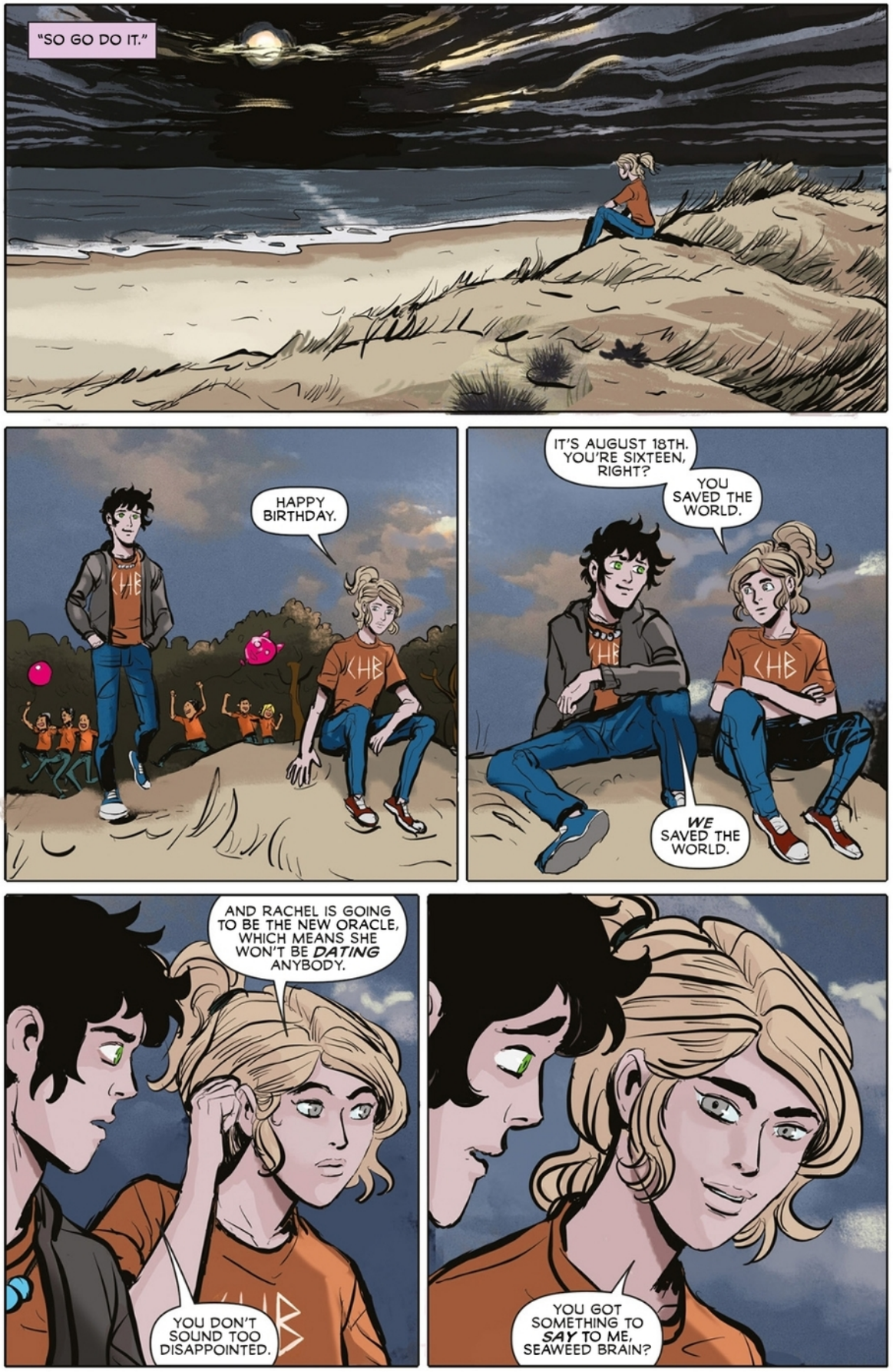
ALL HAIL, PERSEUS JACKSON!
HERO OF OLYMPUS! AND MY BIG BROTHER!

HAIL!
HAIL!
HAIL!
ENOUGH HAILING! GO ENJOY THE PARTY!

RACHEL? HOW'D YOU GET HERE?
CHIRON GAVE ME PASSAGE INSIDE CAMP. I'VE BEEN TALKING WITH HIM, AND I THINK...
...I THINK I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE NEW *ORACLE*.

IF IT'S WHAT YOU WANT, I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.
I'M NOT A DEMIGOD, PERCY, BUT THIS IS WHERE I BELONG. I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY.
IT'S A LITTLE SURPRISING TO ME TOO, BUT THIS IS MY FATE.
I SAW IT IN NEW YORK.
I KNOW WHY I WAS BORN WITH *TRUE SIGHT*.
I WAS MEANT TO BECOME THE ORACLE.

SO YOU'LL BE ABLE TO, LIKE, SEE THE *FUTURE* AND STUFF?
I GUESS SOMETIMES. I'M LEARNING AS I GO.
BUT I DON'T HAVE TO SEE THE FUTURE TO KNOW WHAT *YOU* SHOULD DO NOW.


"SO GO DO IT."
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.
IT'S AUGUST 18TH. YOU'RE SIXTEEN, RIGHT?
YOU SAVED THE WORLD.
WE SAVED THE WORLD.
AND RACHEL IS GOING TO BE THE NEW ORACLE, WHICH MEANS SHE WON'T BE DATING ANYBODY.
YOU DON'T SOUND TOO DISAPPOINTED.
YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME, SEAWEED BRAIN?

WHEN I WAS AT THE RIVER STYX, TURNING INVULNERABLE...NICO SAID I HAD TO CONCENTRATE ON ONE THING THAT KEPT ME ANCHORED TO THE WORLD. THAT MADE ME WANT TO STAY MORTAL.
THEN UP ON OLYMPUS, WHEN THEY WANTED TO MAKE ME A GOD, I KEPT THINKING THAT I DIDN'T WANT THINGS TO STAY THE SAME FOR ETERNITY.
BECAUSE THINGS COULD ALWAYS GET BETTER. AND I WAS THINKING...
OF SOMEONE IN PARTICULAR?
YOU ARE SO NOT MAKING THIS EASY.

I AM NEVER, EVER GOING TO MAKE THINGS EASY FOR YOU.
GET USED TO IT.

FIN

RICK RIORDAN, dubbed 'storyteller of the gods' by *Publishers Weekly*, is the author of five *New York Times* number-one bestselling series with millions of copies sold throughout the world: Percy Jackson, the Heroes of Olympus and the Trials of Apollo, based on Greek and Roman mythology; the Kane Chronicles, based on Egyptian mythology; and Magnus Chase, based on Norse mythology. Millions of fans across the globe have enjoyed his fast-paced and funny quest adventures as well as his two bestselling myth collections: *Percy Jackson and the Greek Gods and Percy Jackson and the Greek Heroes*. Rick lives in Boston, Massachusetts, with his wife and two sons. Learn more at www.rickriordan.co.uk or follow him on Twitter @camphalfblood.

ROBERT VENDITTI is a *New York Times* bestselling author whose characters and concepts have been adapted to both film and television. He has written critically acclaimed comic-book series for Valiant Entertainment and DC Comics, as well as the graphic-novel adaptations of the worldwide best-selling series Percy Jackson, the Heroes of Olympus, and Blue Bloods. He is also the author of the award-winning Miles Taylor and the Golden Cape series for young readers. Robert lives in Atlanta, Georgia. Visit him at robertvenditti.com.

ORPHEUS COLLAR is a *New York Times* bestselling graphic novelist. He adapted, illustrated and coloured the Kane Chronicles graphic-novel series: *The Red Pyramid, The Throne of Fire* and *The Serpent's Shadow*. Orpheus drew layouts for *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel* and coloured the Heroes of Olympus graphic novels *The Lost Hero* and *The Son of Neptune*. He also drew layouts for and coloured *Percy Jackson and the Battle of the Labyrinth: The Graphic Novel*. Orpheus lives in Los Angeles, California. Learn more at orpheusartist.com.

ANTOINE DODÉ is an award-winning illustrator, known for his graphic-novel work, including *Armelle et l'oiseau*. He studied illustration in Brussels at Saint-Luc Institute and has illustrated numerous comics and graphic novels, including the mini-series *The Crow: Curare*, written by James O'Barr. Antoine also did the pencils and inks for *Percy Jackson and the Battle of the Labyrinth: The Graphic Novel*. Learn more at antoinedode.blogspot.fr.